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TOMORROW

THE NEW KENNEDY GLAMOUR

Job agency boss joins ranks of Labour's big business donors

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE chairman of Reed Executive, the employment agency, was named last night as the Labour party's latest big business donor. Labour officials told *The Times* that Alec Reed was giving the party £100,000, lifting to £6 million the total it has raised in individual gifts from business people.

Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, and Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, which owns the *Daily Express*, were also named as donors, both of them giving between £25,000 and £50,000.

Mr Blair will today press John Major yet again to refer the issue of party funding to the Nolan committee on standards in public life.

Labour officials revealed the donations hours after John Major had spoken of the "secret fund" that was being used to fund Mr Blair's private office. It was confirmed last weekend that Mr Blair had received up to £500,000 through a "blind trust" and did not know the donors.

Mr Major said: "They call for openness in funding but have secret funds themselves. I wonder what the parliamentary word for that behaviour is."

But Labour party officials said that it was determined to be open over where its funds were coming from, and were trying to force the Conservatives to do the same.

Professor Reed said last night: "New Labour is firmly in the centre ground, speaking up for the things that matter to the British public. I think Tony Blair is an exceptional leader who has brought hope back to British politics. Given the huge sums the Tories have for their negative campaigning I am doing my bit to help Labour fight back and put the positive vision to the country's people."

It follows the Elm pledged by the late Matthew Harding, vice-chairman of Chelsea football club, who died last month in a helicopter accident, and Bob Gavron, the publishing millionaire, who donated £500,000. Paul Hamlyn, the publisher, gave £600,000.

Labour is planning to publish all the donations it has received over £5,000 next year but it is to announce them gradually, hoping each time to add to the pressure on the Government.

The money has been raised mainly by a new election fund campaign committee which includes members such as Mr Gavron, Lord Attenborough, the film maker, Michael Levy, head of a music publishing group, and Tom Sawyer, general secretary of Labour.

They are backed by a new party business committee which includes members such as Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry NorthWest and the former chief executive of Jaguar Cars, Professor Reed and Sir David Putnam, the film producer.

Mr Harding would have served on the committee and had already made several introductions to Labour.

Labour officials said that Mr Blair had been advised that those backing his private office should stay anonymous although he would have been happy for them to be named.

Major faces revolt over EU debate

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR was last night facing one of the biggest European revolts of his premiership as pro-Europeans united with Euro-sceptics to protest against his refusal to allow a Commons debate on the single currency.

Leaders of the backbench 1922 Committee were seeking an early meeting with the Prime Minister after he and Tony Newton, the Commons leader, resisted demands for a full-scale discussion on these directives relating to economic and monetary union (EMU).

In the Commons, Mr Major was openly contradicted by his own side as he claimed that the regulations had already been given "detailed scrutiny" in a rowdy committee session on Wednesday. Both Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown tried to twist the knife and last night Mr Blair wrote to Mr Major, telling him that he must not "cheat" the House of a proper discussion.

Later a private meeting of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers delivered what MPs called a "unanimous and uncompromising" message to Mr Major that he must change his mind.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the committee, and two other officers were asked by the executive of the committee to seek an urgent meeting with Mr Major to convey the full weight of backbench anger. Unusually, they were asked to see him last night.

The Prime Minister was reported to be in no mood to back down. Conservative sources said last night that Mr Major would be seeing Sir Marcus next week. Sources said: "He will be happy to listen to what the chairman has to say, but for the moment there is nothing to add to what was said this afternoon."

The *Times* understands that several Cabinet ministers were in favour of allowing a separate Commons debate on EMU before the meeting of European finance ministers on December 2. But they were over-ruled by the Prime Minister and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Mr Blair echoed the view of Tory Euro-sceptics that Mr Major was refusing the debate because he did not want to expose the pro-European Mr Clarke to sensitive questions in the Commons on the single currency. He said: "In view of the extraordinary importance of the European reports on a single currency — matters which may be decided by ministers in December — would you agree on reflection that it would be quite monstrous to deny this House a chance to debate, in full, those reports?"

As Tory Euro-sceptics such as John Redwood shook their heads, Mr Major insisted: "There was detailed scrutiny in the standing committee. In due course we will be tabling the appropriate motion. No final decisions are taken at the meeting of finance ministers."

Mr Blair replied: "Wouldn't you be a good deal more honest if you simply stood at that despatch box and said you are afraid to have the Chancellor stand and debate these issues?"

Mr Major retorted: "Anyone who thinks Mr Clarke isn't willing, able and competent to debate with you or anyone on any subject, simply doesn't know him."

It is understood that Mr Clarke assured other ministers yesterday that there was no likelihood of any legislative decisions on single currency preparations being taken at the finance ministers meeting and that MPs would therefore have ample opportunity to discuss the issue at a planned Commons debate on Europe before the Dublin summit.

But this line was unacceptable to most Tory MPs who want a separate opportunity to debate, and if possible vote upon, detailed issues surrounding the preparation for a single currency.

In the Commons, Mr Major was contradicted by David Heathcoat-Amory, the former minister who resigned over Europe. The MP had been present at the Commons Standing Committee B which looked at the regulations on Wednesday and he told Mr Major, to cheers from his colleagues, that there had been "no proper scrutiny".

The Government has to table a motion stating that the



Jemima Khan, wife of the former Pakistan cricketer turned politician, leaving Portland Hospital in London yesterday with their first baby, a boy named Sulaiman Isa

More children from better off homes expelled

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE growing ranks of expelled pupils are being swelled by disruptive children from middle-class backgrounds who lack fathers as role models. Ofsted, the school inspection agency, said yesterday.

Government figures confirmed yesterday that expulsions have more than tripled since 1990, with 11,084 children banned from their schools in 1994-95.

David Moore, a senior inspector with Ofsted, said that schools in affluent areas were increasingly banning children. Research showed that those involved often had fathers absent either through work commitments or marital breakdown.

Mr Moore was speaking at the launch of an Ofsted study which said that some schools were too ready to expel and blamed boring lessons for encouraging disruptive behaviour. His findings echoed warnings from independent school heads that "opulent neglect" was causing a wave of unruly behaviour in exclusive schools.

Tony Evans, chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of leading independent schools, spoke this year about the danger to classroom order posed by parents too busy with their careers to care for their children. Mr Evans stirred national debate on family life when he said that schools were having to cope with the emotional crises of children whose parents were too busy to talk to them.

Inspectors from Ofsted visited 30 schools for the report and found a common pattern of pupils misbehaving where the father was missing as a role model. "It puts a lot of pressure on the mother," Mr



"I was expelled last year, but I'm still waiting for my dad to come and collect me"

Top cartoonist

The *Times* cartoonist Peter Brookes has been named best political cartoonist of the year in the 1996 Cartoon Trust awards. Mr Brookes also works for *The Spectator*.

Briton escapes

Christopher Howes, a British mine-clearance expert, is said to have escaped from Khmer Rouge guerrillas. He had been presumed dead... Page 2

By the *Times* overseas correspondents: Austria, 40p; Belgium, 40p; Canada, 40p; France, 40p; Germany, 40p; Italy, 40p; Japan, 40p; Netherlands, 40p; Portugal, 40p; Spain, 40p; Sweden, 40p; Switzerland, 40p; USA, 40p; UK, 40p.

The *Times* on the Internet: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Widow is barred from taking sperm abroad

BY EMMA WILKINS AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

DIANE BLOOD, the widow who fought a court battle for the right to use her dead husband's sperm to conceive, was distraught last night after being told she would not be able to take the sperm abroad for artificial insemination.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority decided that Mrs Blood, 30, should not be allowed to travel to the Continent to receive fertility treatment.

Mrs Blood, whose husband Stephen died 18 months ago of bacterial meningitis, had spoken of her optimism after the authority said it was going to review the issue at the end of October.

However, last night her father Michael McMahon said the Human Embryology had contacted them with their final decision. "Diane is extremely upset, very disappointed and outraged at the way the authority has behaved. Even though she was trying not to be too optimistic, inevitably she had her hopes up high — they have just been dashed."

"Her mother is with her now, trying to comfort her and tell her that it's not the end but she is obviously in a very emotional state."

"The authority have not even given any of their reasons for turning her down and we think that is especially outrageous," he added.

The fight will now go to the Court of Appeal, he said.

The authority is bound by the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act to disallow the use of sperm in Britain unless the donor has given his written consent. However, in cases where sperm is to be exported or imported, it has discretionary powers.

The authority decided last month to reconsider Mrs Blood's case after considerable media coverage of her plight. After the High Court turned down her application, Baroness Warnock and Lord Winston, both fertility experts, spoke out in Mrs Blood's support.

The authority, which called a press conference last night, abandoned its plans when a spokeswoman discovered that Mrs Blood had not yet been informed of its decision.



Mrs Blood: optimism after court failure

Channel fire boosts fortunes of Dover

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE closure of the Channel Tunnel has brought a return to the boom times for Dover with record numbers of cars and lorries bound for France pouring into the struggling Kent port yesterday.

As Eurotunnel admitted that two of its three main safety systems failed during Monday's fire, the tunnel remained barred to all traffic except a few freight trains — 36 compared to 300 car, freight and Eurostar passenger services on a normal day.

In a reversal of fortunes, the port of Dover, which has seen almost half its business lost to the tunnel in the past two years, reported handling an all-time record of 5,484 lorries yesterday.

Passenger numbers have also leaped by more than 50 per cent since Monday's blaze. In total, ferries to and from Dover carried 44,734 passengers, 8,889 cars and 302 coaches.

Safety failure, page 7
Letters, page 23

TIMES EUROSTAR TICKET OFFER

Eurostar said yesterday that it would honour all valid free ticket applications made under the current *Times* offer despite the temporary suspension of services caused by the closure of the Channel Tunnel. In addition, Eurostar has agreed to extend the time the offer can be taken up by four months to August 31, 1997. As the authorities have not yet announced the reopening of the tunnel for Eurostar services it is possible that availability of travel on free tickets before Christmas may be affected. Readers should continue to apply for tickets as previously announced. Full travel details will be included in the packs which will be sent with the ticket voucher.

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Demons gloat as ill winds blow no good for skipper

Describing Wednesday's Commons proceedings, this sketch reported the appearance in the Commons chamber of an omen, and a sinister one: Sir George Gardiner (C, Reigate), a thin smile upon his lips, standing at the Bar of the House. We noted that when trouble for the Tories was brewing, Sir George was seldom far away. Yesterday the omens multiplied.

Three or four benches back from the front bench, below the gangway and somewhat to its end, lies the epicentre of an invisible zone. No more than six yards square, it is a zone of menace for Tory Cabinets: a vortex of the forces of mud.

It was from here that Geoffrey Howe launched his fatal attack on Margaret Thatcher, from here that Thatcher took aim at her successor's Maastricht agreement, from here that Norman Lamont described John Major as "in office but not in power". The ghosts of such occasions still inhabit those benches. As unmarked on formal Parliamentary maps as the Bermuda Triangle is unmarked on navigational charts, this small patch of green leather radiates spirals of stress, anger and treachery.

Positioned just off-centre in the Commons Triangle for Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, was John Redwood. Pallid and unblink-



POLITICAL SKETCH

ing, his silent presence was enough. It will have chilled Majorities as might the appearance of a death's head in their midst. And there was worse. In the Peers' Gallery above, the gaunt features of Norman Tebbit leered down like some malign gargoyle, gleeful witness to their discomfort. Lord Tebbit had come for the fun — and to be seen there.

An observer who was profoundly deaf could have read the scene as accurately as we who could hear. What we heard was Tony Blair seizing the advantage and forcing the Prime Minister into an awkward defence of the Cabinet's decision not to allow a debate on the European Monetary proposals.

The subject may be arcane — the exchanges difficult (in cold print) to weigh — but there was no mistaking Tory backbench anger, or ministerial embarrassment.

If meteorologists could weather-map political trouble, this morning's charts would show an area of intense pressure situated, not over the Azores, but over the Commons Triangle. Puffing an ill wind from the top right corner, like those cherubim on antique maps, would be the pursed cheeks of Lord



Gardiner: bad omen

Tebbit. The sea monsters such maps show would bear the faces of prominent Tory Eurosceptics, cruising around the Prime Minister.

In a small boat, storm-tossed but still afloat, John Major and his Chief Whip would peer anxiously over the sides.

For Mr Major, respite from the storm came near the end of PM's Questions when, in riposte to Labour's John McAllion (Dundee E), who had been unwise enough to raise the subject of fat-cat funding of political parties, Major lashed back with angry eloquence at the "blind trust" which funded the Labour Leader's office.

The Tories cheered lustily. Thus the Prime Minister rescued himself in the final round. Just when Major seems to be sunk, a fair wind and a flash of sunshine saves him. Just when he seems to be sailing free another hurricane strikes. His torment, prolonged for their private amusement by the gods of politics, has endured so long now that rescue, when it comes, comes almost as an act of cruelty. One begins to wonder whether the gods could be preparing their most extraordinary intervention yet, next May.

Major faces revolt by MPs

Continued from page 1
regulations have been taken note of before, technically, Mr Major can agree to anything in Dublin. MPs cannot debate the motion but could vote it down, and many were last night vowing to do so. The Government can be expected to table the motion late at night, probably on a Thursday, so it can be voted through on a quiet Friday.

At least 60 MPs crowded into the 1922 Committee

meeting. Christopher Gill, the Euro-sceptic MP for Ludlow, was cheered when he declared: "Right-wing MPs are at breaking point in terms of support for the Government."

The latest controversy comes only days after Mr Major infuriated backbenchers who have traditionally been loyal by refusing to give them the same free vote which Labour MPs enjoyed on the Firearms Bill.

John Wilkinson, one of the eight Tory Euro-rebels once stripped of the whip, said: "I now comprehend the rage that filled the breasts of the parliamentarians in the Civil War in this country and of the colonies in the American revolutionary war — because the issue at stake in both occasions was an abuse of executive power."

Peter Riddell, page 13
Leading article, page 23

Mines expert flees his Khmer Rouge captors

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK AND HUW WATKINS IN PHNOM PENH

A BRITISH mine clearance expert was yesterday reported to be fit and well after fleeing eight months' captivity with Khmer Rouge guerrillas. Christopher Howes, who was earlier reported to have been killed, was said by a Cambodian Army general to be fine "but very thin".

The former army corporal from Bristol is believed to be sheltering with Cambodian troops in the central province of Kompong Thom, in an area previously controlled by Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader. Huon Hoerth, a Cambodian described as Mr Howes' companion and interpreter, was reported to be with him.

General Nhek Bun Chhay, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Cambodian Army, said that both would fly to the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, today. The two men, members of the British-based Mines Advisory Group, reached



Along Kranh village in the company of Khmer Rouge guards and defectors, the general said.

"There were 151 separatists led by a division commander, including Howes' 11 guards," he said. "They helped him escape. It took a long time because there were problems in travelling. I spoke to him today by radio and he said he is very well but very thin."

Mr Howes' father, Roy, 68, said: "I am very happy about what we have heard, but we will treat it with great caution." Mr Howes, who travelled to London with his wife Betty yesterday, said he was now too old a soldier to be taken in by rumours. "Until we hear it from the Foreign Office we shall unhappily regard it as rumour."

His son was assisting the Cambodians in clearing mil-

lions of landmines left after protracted civil wars involving the Khmer Rouge. He and his interpreter were abducted close to the Angkor Wat temple complex, a remote tourist attraction, in March.

After his capture Mr Howes declined an invitation by the Khmer Rouge to go free to collect a ransom. They had demanded, preferring instead to remain with his 23 colleagues. As a result all 23 were released while Mr Howes and Mr Hoerth were kept as hostages.

In August, the *Bangkok Post* said Mr Howes had been executed and that Mr Hoerth had died of malaria in July.

Friends and family of Mr Howes spoke yesterday of the leadership qualities of the Falklands veteran. Fiona Talcott, MAG's southeast Asia desk officer, said Mr Howes was a valued and well-respected member of its Cambodian team who trained local Cambodian staff to identify and dispose of the wide variety of mines that litter the Cambodian countryside.

Some Cambodian army reports suggested that Mr Howes was being asked to apply his explosive expertise in making bombs and mines for the Khmer Rouge.

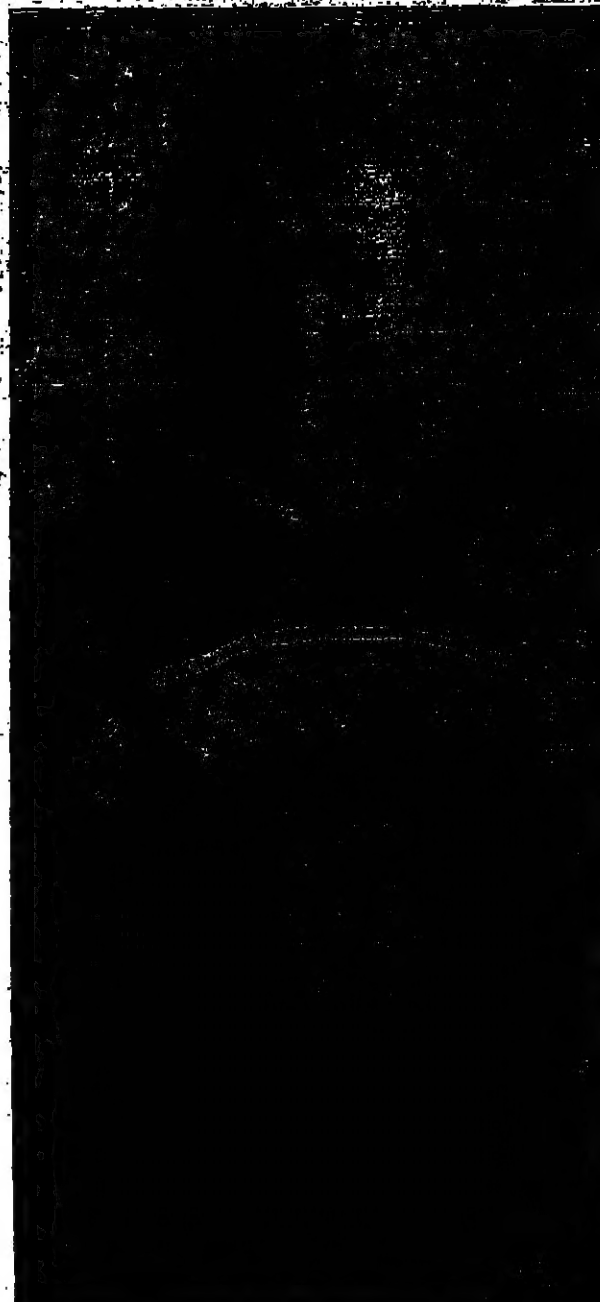
Mr Howes' leadership and endurance was clear from an early age, according to a scout leader who knew him in his school years in Nailsea, north Somerset.

Phil Siggins, Scout leader of 1st Nailsea Troop in the early 1970s, said he was an enthusiastic boy who, aged 15, completed the 35-mile Ten Tents army yomp across Dartmoor. "I also remember him for keeping a very cool head when one of the troop fell off a rope, knocking himself unconscious. Christopher remembered how to summon help by blowing out an SOS call on a whistle and the boy was quickly taken to hospital."

Mr Siggins, 68, who is a close friend of the Howes family, said everyone had rallied round Christopher's parents in recent months. The couple had made several appeals, begging their son's captors to set their minds to his rescue.

Mr Howes trained 100 bomb disposal with 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) in the late 1970s. He spent seven years with the Corps doing operational tours in Germany, Belize, Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands.

After working in the quarrying industry Mr Howes found a peaceful application for his military skills when he joined the Mines Advisory Group in 1993. He worked clearing mines and training civilian



Christopher Howes before he was seized. His parents said they wanted confirmation before believing he was free

personnel in Kurdistan and Northern Iraq before being sent to Cambodia. In November 1995 as a technical adviser.

It was in Kurdistan that he reportedly earned the name "Nine Dogs Howes" for his skills with a sniper's rifle seeing off feral dogs. He was described by colleagues as a cool-headed individual.

Additional reporting by Peter Foster

Hospital waiting list grows longer

The number of patients waiting for more than a year for NHS treatment has risen almost 50 per cent in three months, as hospitals cut back on non-urgent cases to balance their books. At the end of September, 15,000 people had waited more than a year, compared with 10,374 at the end of June. Last March the figure was 4,574. However, it is still lower than in September last year, when the total was 27,900. The total number on waiting lists has also risen slightly by 0.4 per cent to 1,060,200, and is now 7 per cent higher than a year ago.

Jobs campaign

A campaign to restore the rights of Irish and Commonwealth nationals to work in key public services, jobs has been mounted by civil service unions. Since June new recruits with Irish or Commonwealth passports may not hold posts deemed to require an allegiance to the Crown.

Benefit extended

Hundreds of workers affected by the asbestos-related cancer mesothelioma yesterday won the right to £100-a-week industrial injuries benefit. Thousands of miners who suffered respiratory illness caused by inhaling dust and fumes underground will also be awarded £50 a week.

Millennium fillip

The Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich, southeast London, received a significant boost with the announcement that the Government is buying the derelict site on which the millennium dome will be built. The polluted peninsula is being bought from British Gas for £20 million.

Pit fee attacked

The terms of a £25 million "success fee" for N.M. Rothschild and Sons for advising on the sale of coal mines were fired after some stages had been successfully completed, the Commons Public Accounts Committee reported. Such terms should be fixed in advance in future, it said.

Council fined

Camden Council in north London was fined £44,000 with £11,500 in costs at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court yesterday for offences that could have killed 150 tenants from gas fumes. The council failed to ensure that flues and installations to 200 gas fires were inspected.

Stones succeed

The German magazine *Der Spiegel* has agreed to publish a correction to an allegation that the Rolling Stones mined some of the songs during their Vietnam Lounging world tour. Walter Scheuer, a lawyer for the group, said: "In return the Stones have agreed not to claim damages."

Car premiums up

The average motorist could be paying up to £30 more on a £350 car insurance policy in the new year because of increasing claims and an increase in tax. Young drivers and those in professions considered high risk could face even greater increases in their premiums.

Bird degree

The veteran cricket umpire Dickie Bird finally received an honorary doctorate from Sheffield Hallam University after snow had stopped play. The presentation, at Sheffield City Hall, took place after freak storms earlier this week had caused the cancellation of the original ceremony.

Toilet auction

A two-day auction of treasure recovered from the wreck of the Royal Mail steamer *Douro* ended with the sale of the ship's lavatory. It went for £495, bringing to £1,508,200 the total sale proceeds. The *Douro* sank in the Bay of Biscay in 1882 with the loss of 17 lives.

Terrorist bomb is defused in Ulster

BY NICHOLAS WATT

ARMY bomb disposal experts yesterday defused a 600lb car bomb planted by republican terrorists outside the main RUC station in the centre of Londonderry.

Troops acted after the "Continuity Army Council" of the IRA, a splinter terrorist group, issued bomb warnings to radio stations and local newspapers on both sides of the Irish border just after 11.30am. A caller, who did not use a codeword, said that a 600lb bomb had been packed into the boot of a Renault 11 car outside the Strand Road RUC station.

Within minutes of the warnings police evacuated most of its staff from the RUC station and people from nearby buildings. At around 1.00pm army bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on the device. A security source said that the bomb would have devastated a large area of Londonderry if it had exploded outside the RUC base, which is about 300 yards from the city's Guildhall. The source said: "It was a viable device. Home-made explosives were packed into 13 bags."

John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, who is the MP for Foyle, condemned the bombers. He said: "I am obviously deeply angered by this. The people who are engaged in this activity are the enemies of Derry and of the people of Ireland."

Public managers must carry the can says Nolan

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

LORD Nolan said last night that the heads of Government agencies, such as the prison service, and other senior officials should be more accountable to the public.

The law lord appointed to monitor standards in public life, Lord Nolan attacked the present system which allowed senior managers to be shielded behind the cloak of Ministers' accountability.

He highlighted his case with the position of Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, who twice in recent weeks had to become involved in the difficulties of problem schools. He said that the right people had to be accountable and problems could no longer be hushed up. They had to be openly answerable to the public for their actions and decisions. He criticised Ministers for defending the status quo and described the present position as "an unsatisfactory half-way house".

Lord Nolan spoke out last night because he is concerned that while the Government has pressed ahead to introduce more efficient management styles into the civil service, they have failed to respond to the public pressure for public services to be more accountable.

He argued that chief executives were frequently public figures and he cited the early days of the Child Support Agency, for example, when its



Nolan: attacked lack of accountability

former head, Ros Hepplewhite, was as much a target of public protest as the Minister. The Civil Service was now a complex structure and officials could no longer expect to work anonymously within their "departmental bosom".

Speaking in his second Radcliffe Lecture at Warwick University, Lord Nolan said: "If accountability is only for Ministers, in respect of an agency with hundreds of offices and thousands of clients, the chain is too long, the person who should be answerable remains shielded from public view and true accountability is weakened."

He reiterated his view that the civil service had long used ministerial accountability as an excuse for secrecy, but he warned that it was now being used to slow down the growth in accountability.

Affluent expulsions

Continued from page 1
Moore said: "The absence of a father can have an influence and that also applied to middle-class children who were high achievers. Where their fathers were absent, the opportunity for them to take advantage was increased."

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said official figures yesterday showed that 1,365 children were excluded from

primary schools and 9,197 from secondary schools in 1994-95. She said: "Schools must have the right to exclude the small minority of severely disruptive pupils whose behaviour is intractable. But permanent exclusion should be a last resort, and Ofsted's report indicates that schools should be able to contain many who are excluded."

Education, page 39

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Female 'husband' fooled wife for 17 years, judges told

By DANIEL MCGRODY

A TRANSSEXUAL whose 17-year marriage to a wealthy society heiress ended when his wife discovered "he" was a woman who wore a false penis lost his claim in the Court of Appeal yesterday for a share of their marital home.

The 50-year-old "husband" said that he would now take his case to the European Court of Human Rights for the money and access to his two children. They were born after the wife was artificially inseminated after telling a fertility clinic her husband had had a vasectomy.

She had admitted being sexually inexperienced and believed her husband was either "deformed or just very small". In fact, her husband had been born and brought up as a girl, though by the age of 17 was living as a man and using an improvised prosthesis to have sex with women.

He later underwent hormone treatment and had both breasts removed before meeting his future wife at a restaurant where they were both working.

The wife, who is heiress to an estate worth "tens of millions", only discovered her husband's true sexuality after



Lord Justice Ward: was "astonished"

a family row prompted her to hire a private detective who found his birth certificate.

In their 83-page judgement yesterday, the three appeal court judges agreed that the transsexual had deceived his wife and committed perjury at their wedding when he said there was no lawful hindrance to the marriage.

Lord Justice Ward said that although "the plight of the transsexual should command sympathy", his deception had traumatised his wife. "The facts of this case boil down to an attempt to gain benefit

which accrues only through wrongdoing," the judge said.

The action was seen by lawyers as a test over the legalisation of transsexual marriages, recognised by many European countries.

Lord Justice Ward said he had sympathy for both parties in the "sad story", and ruled that neither could be identified in any way so as to protect their children — a boy now aged 9 and a girl aged 4.

The judge recounted how the couple met when the wife was aged 19, eleven years younger than the transsexual, and "an unhappy theology undergraduate disaffected by university". Their sexual relationship began soon after they met. "They began to live together and on July 7, 1977, went through a ceremony of marriage despite opposition from the plaintiff's family."

"Many — and I am one of them — will find it quite astonishing that there was no single occasion in 17 years of life together when her eyes did not see, or her hands or her body feel, or her senses tell her that she was living with a man who had the genital formation of a woman, a man who did not simply have a small or deformed penis, but had no penis at all."

The relationship began to break down in 1994 and the wife petitioned for divorce, telling a close friend of "peculiarities... his nipples, the scars under his arms, the fact that he used an artificial penis and the blood stains."

The defendant had never undergone the recommended surgical construction of a penis and retained the genital organs of a woman. He gave evidence how they had sex using a fake penis made of plaster of Paris which he wore constantly.

He contends that after their marriage his wife discovered his vagina while they were in bed. "She said, 'Do you want to talk about it?' I said 'No'. That was stupid."

His wife denied such an incident and insisted her husband never revealed his true gender. She never saw him naked, she said.

The marriage was formally annulled in October 1994. All three judges — Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Neill — refused the defendant any financial settlement from the marriage.

Madeline Rees, who represented the defendant, said after the ruling: "The civil rights of transsexuals have still to be recognised in this country which is why we shall pursue this to the House of Lords if possible, and then certainly to Europe."

"All he was seeking was half the value of the house he helped build, about £200,000. His wife has tens of millions and will give him nothing, nor let him see his children."

The UK is almost alone in Europe and the rest of the common law world in refusing to allow the approximately 50,000 transsexuals in the country to change their birth certificates and thus legally marry. In 1986 the European Court of Human Rights said it was not an infringement of rights but Terrence Walton, a solicitor, believes the UK will come under pressure over the position. Allowing birth certificates changes would create other legal rights revolving around marriage, children, property and trusts.



Mrs Shand Kydd leaving Oban court, where she denies a charge of drink-driving

Diana's mother 'may have been upset by letter'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE "tearful and distraught" demeanour of Frances Shand Kydd, mother of Diana, Princess of Wales as she was driven home by police after being arrested on suspicion of drink-driving may have been caused by a letter she had received, Oban Sheriff's court was told yesterday.

Detective Sergeant Dugald MacCallum of Oban police said Mrs Shand Kydd, 60, wept during the 25-minute drive to her home on the island of Seil, Argyll and Bute, on April 5 and was not her normal self.

Sergeant MacCallum was giving evidence on the second day of Mrs Shand Kydd's trial before Sheriff William Dunlop. She denies charges of driving while over the alcohol limit and failing to provide a breath test.

Andrew Hardie, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates and head of Mrs Shand Kydd's four-strong defence team, asked if Mrs Shand Kydd had offered any explanation for her distressed state or whether she had mentioned receiving a communication or letter that day. Sergeant MacCallum said he did not know if she mentioned it that day or the next.

He said Mrs Shand Kydd had admitted to him that she had not eaten all day because it was Good Friday, but she had had a glass of wine. Asked if he thought she was drunk, Sergeant MacCallum said: "I

honestly would not like to say." One and a half hours earlier, Mrs Shand Kydd had been arrested in Oban after an off duty police officer spotted her walking unsteadily towards her car, bumping into parked vehicles, before getting into it and driving off.

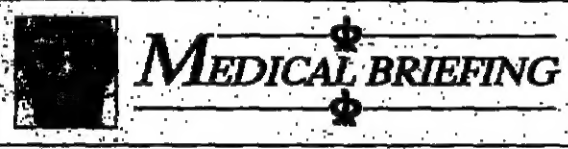
She was arrested and a blood sample taken with her permission. It was divided between two phials. Mrs Shand Kydd was offered one, which she refused, he said. Tests later found 206 milligrams of alcohol in one millilitre of blood, exceeding the 80 milligram limit.

Constable Michael Woods insisted that the police procedures were followed throughout using form 482, which outlined the correct method of obtaining blood samples. This crucial document subsequently went missing and has never been found. The court only has a photocopy taken before it was lost as evidence.

Mr Hardie claimed that Mrs Shand Kydd was unsteady on her feet because of an earlier fall which had injured her left ankle and knee. She also had trouble with her right leg after an operation in 1987.

Her eyes were red, not because of alcohol, but because she had been crying, he said. He suggested her emotional distress had been sparked by a communication received possibly that same day. The case continues.

The women who make sacrifices to live like men



Dr Thomas Stuftford

IT IS no surprise to doctors to hear that transsexual women forced a lasting relationship with another woman, and even went through a form of marriage. Twenty years ago a survey showed that nearly all transsexual women who have surgery to change their apparent gender find a female lover, and many establish an enduring partnership with them.

Nor is it rare for children to be involved. Often the partner who plays the wifely role already has children of her own. In other instances, as in the case which was heard by the Court of Appeal, children have been conceived as a result of artificial insemination.

What is most remarkable is that the wife in the recent court case was unaware that such masculine appearance as her husband had was the result of surgical and medical skills, and not of nature. The wife was apparently deceived by her partner's double mastectomy, and by the masculinisation achieved by hormone therapy. The woman, either presumably didn't recognise her partner's dildos for what it was, or thought that it was an essential aid for most men in their sexual activities.

Some older women brought up when sexual mores were very different had a lack of knowledge of anatomy and physiology which is unbeliev-

able to later generations. Nearly 40 years ago, when I was a paediatric houseman, an adolescent boy was brought to out-patients by his mother because of grossly abnormal genitalia. I suggested that the deformities should have been noticed earlier, but the mother very reasonably replied that there were only two penises she knew well, her husband's and her son's, and how was she to know which was standard issue?

The transsexual woman, who has often had a mother who found it difficult to express maternal love, has a deeply-rooted conviction that she is a man, despite all the anatomical evidence to the contrary. The woman feels that her genitalia are not only inappropriate to her gender, as she believes it, but actually abhorrent, and she therefore seeks the medical profession's help in order to re-sculpt herself. These women have often worn male clothes from an early age, have camouflaged their gender, and have enjoyed male pursuits while they were growing up.

Female transsexuals have sometimes led very successful careers as men. In one famous case in the 19th century, a woman served as a man in a Scottish regiment and was only found to be female after she was wounded, when it also transpired that she had actually had a baby before joining up.

her cheque because she wants the money to go to the hospital that looked after her sick husband.

Stan Szczotka, deputy editor of the *Hull Daily Mail*, has been running an appeal for the elderly woman to come forward to claim her prize so that the money does not go into a good causes national pool. He said: "The original letter writer has been back in touch with us and, despite our requests, has repeated that she will not come forward. We have agreed not to release any more details that could identify her."

"Since we published details of the first letter, scores of people have come forward claiming to have bought the winning ticket. Several people have also written in claiming to have penned the letter as a hoax."

The winning numbers were 8, 20, 26, 34, 42, 43, and the bonus ball was 25.

Mystery £2.5m lottery winner plays for time

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE secretive widow who claims to be the reluctant winner of £2.5 million on the National Lottery yesterday insisted she had no intention of collecting the money before last night's 11pm deadline.

In a second letter to her local newspaper the 89-year-old woman, understood to be called Enid and from Hull, enclosed part of a lottery ticket bearing the winning numbers with a note saying this proved she would not claim the prize. Camelot staff, however, said it was impossible to judge whether the slip was genuine and could not rule out a hoax.

In her letter to the *Hull Daily Mail*, the "winner" said: "I was very shocked and a little upset to see my letter in the paper and on the news. All I wanted to do was to put the public's mind at rest as to the whereabouts of the ticket. "But now the matter is out, it's best for all I bring an end to it. I enclose the numbers of

my ticket to show I have no intention of claiming any money. I am sorry if I have caused any inconvenience."

As the final hours ticked away yesterday Camelot chartered a plane to fly over the city's marina at lunchtime trailing a 100ft banner with the words: "Two million pounds prize — is it you?" Camelot also kept its hotline open until 11pm so that the £2,540,754 could be claimed. Some £160,000 in interest has been lost since the prize was won in May.

The possible winner instigated a major hunt last Friday when she wrote to the paper saying she was too frightened to collect her money, claiming: "All the fuss would finish me off." She said that the ticket was left by her late husband who bought it at 11 o'clock on Friday, May 24, this year. "Enid", who has no surviving family or friends except a home help, refuses to pick up

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FREIGHT CONT

Eurotunnel admits that systems failed in fire

By JOANNA BALE AND JONATHAN FRYNN

Eurotunnel admitted yesterday that the train that caused an emergency on Monday was ablaze before it entered the tunnel, and that two of its three safety systems had failed. A French magistrate said that an investigation had not ruled out sabotage after reports of an incendiary device being thrown by striking French lorry drivers.

With the tunnel still shut last night to all but a few freight services, Alain Bertrand, operations director, confirmed that security guards saw smoke belching from a rear wagon before the lorry shuttle entered the tunnel. The driver was instructed to continue his 40-minute journey rather than stop and reverse out, so that the fire could be tackled more easily in Folkestone rather than in the Tunnel, M Bertrand said.

He added: "When smoke is

detected it is normal procedure that the train should try to reach the other side. Reversing is more dangerous because it means stopping."

This first safety procedure failed because the driver stopped the train in the tunnel. A power failure, caused by the fire, then crippled the second safety measure, which should have involved automatically uncoupling the burning wagon and continuing to Folkestone with all passengers safely in the lounge wagon.

He added: "We do not know why the driver stopped, but we do understand that a warning light went on in his cab telling him to do so. Part of that system is connected to the bridge plates on the side of the wagons which open to enable lorries to be loaded onto them. The driver stopped in a controlled way in front of the door leading to the service tunnel,



Bertrand: evacuation was successful

where our third emergency measure, an evacuation of 31 passengers and three crew, was successfully carried out."

Despite sophisticated ventilation systems designed to prevent evacuating passengers being overcome by fumes, eight suffered smoke inhalation, two of them severely, and they were taken to hospital. Mr Bertrand said there had been two Eurostar trains, two tourist shuttles and one other freight shuttle in the tunnel at the time of the fire. "Procedures were applied scrupulously, allowing everyone to be evacuated safely."

Investigations into the cause of the fire continued yesterday under the authority of a French judge. One of the examining magistrates involved in the case, Gerald Lesigne, said that he had not ruled out sabotage: "We believe the fire started on the lower part of a lorry or on the upper part of a wagon. There is no evidence of an incendiary device but we haven't been able to rule that out."

Contractors are expected to remove the nine wagons still inside the tunnel next week, after rebuilding buckled tracks. Damaged power cabling was said to have been bypassed, but the damage to the concrete lining of the tunnel had not yet been fully investigated.

Eurotunnel executives yesterday continued to gather documentation requested by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority before it will give the go ahead to Le Shuttle, Eurostar and shuttle train services recommending. Despite 13 hours of intensive talks on Wednesday and the delivery of hundreds of documents detailing safety procedures, three out of the four Channel Tunnel train services remained halted last night. Container freight services were the only revenue-earning trains moving, about three an hour in each direction.

Eurostar said it had stopped taking bookings until the end of the month, and had given up forecasting when the service would be running again. It emerged that marathon

talks in Calais broke down over the issue of how passengers on shuttle or Eurostar trains would be evacuated from the undamaged tunnel if there was another fire.

The Eurotunnel "safety case" is based on two fully operational tunnels allowing passengers involved in a major accident to be evacuated within 90 minutes by passing trains in the undamaged tunnel. A Eurotunnel source said that the company would today propose leaving a manned and operational shuttle train permanently parked in the damaged south tunnel, to act as an evacuation vehicle.

Further issues on which the authority required fresh information included fire prevention and smoke dispersal systems in the tunnel, the list of materials and cargos that can be transported through the tunnel, and the safety of the lattice-sided wagons involved in the accident. Jeremy Beech, the Kent county fire Officer and a member of the authority, is known to have long harboured doubts about the wagons on the grounds that they allow fire to spread too easily.

THE bill for fire damage and disruption could run to £50 million, but Eurotunnel and Eurostar insisted yesterday that these losses were covered by insurance. City analysts said that if the company is forced to replace its lattice-sided wagons, talks about a £4.7 billion refinancing package could be jeopardised.



End of the road: a burnt-out lorry in a lattice-sided wagon at Calais, where it will be examined by investigators

TUNNEL SERVICES: PASSENGERS

Eurostar services are operated jointly by the state railways of France and Belgium and a private British consortium, London & Continental Railways. Shareholders include Virgin and National Express. The electric trains can reach 180mph, and travel at 100mph during their 20-minute journey through the tunnel. They do not carry vehicles. The trains link London Waterloo with the Gare du Nord in Paris and Gare du Midi in Brussels. By last week the services had been stepped up to between 14 and 16 departures a day to Paris and between six and eight to Brussels. Through services from Scotland and the Midlands are to start next year.

CAR TRAINS

Eurotunnel operates a fleet of nine Le Shuttle trains between Folkestone and Calais for travellers in cars and coaches. The service runs round the clock, 365 days a year, and before the fire had reached a frequency of about 60 trains a day in each direction. Vehicles are driven on to the half-mile-long trains. The drivers and passenger can stay in their seats or wander around the carriage during the 25-minute journey. The carriages are divided by fire doors designed to contain a blaze for at least 30 minutes. After a short start the service has become hugely successful, taking about 45 per cent of the Calais traffic — and up to 100,000 cars and coaches a day.

FREIGHT SHUTTLE

The Eurotunnel lorry shuttle is, like the car trains, a drive-on service. Tractors manoeuvre their vehicles onto the "lattice-sided" wagons. It was one of these trains that was involved in the fire on Monday night, and the flames spread to the other wagons. Eurotunnel was not aware of any faults at the time. The shuttle carries a total of about 2,000 lorries. Unlike car shuttles, passengers on the freight service travel separately from their vehicles. After driving their lorries on board the tractor is hauled to a "club car" immediately behind the front locomotive, where they are tucked in a seat during the journey.

FREIGHT CONTAINERS

A British Rail subsidiary, Rail Freight Distribution, in partnership with the French state railway SNCF, operates about 20 container freight trains a day. These are mainly long-distance services carrying goods such as cars and aggregates to Italy and Spain. They have no passengers and so were the first allowed back into the tunnel. The service lost £60 million last year and is being privatised.

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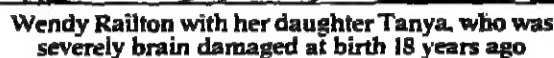
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BY FRANCES GIBB

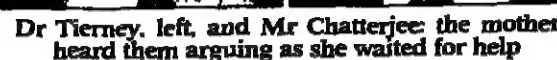
Guy Eskell, Ms Railton's solicitor, said: "Unless she can raise money to take out insur-

Tanya, who is in a wheelchair with a displaced hip and curvature of the spine, is looked after by a full-time carer. She has been confined to home since she was 11. A damages award would provide the equipment to improve her quality of life, plus ensure her care for the future. "Otherwise I will just have to sit back and watch her get worse," Ms Rajlton said.



By MICHAEL HORSNELL

Linda Dobbs, counsel for the GMC, said that on July 8, 1994, the mother was taken to the hospital when her waters broke and a midwife at her



home reported the baby was in the breech position. Staff were unable to contact Mr Chatterjee, who had no telephone at his surgery. A nurse was despatched by car 20 miles to alert him.

Meanwhile, Sister Muriel MacLeod telephoned Dr Tierney, a GP and part-time anaesthetist, to call him to assist if necessary in a vaginal breech delivery. He was met at the main door by the sister who told him that she had

Dr Tierney went to a consulting room to change. There he found Mr Chatterjee, and an exchange of words culminated in Mr Chatterjee saying:

Dr Tierney said the atmosphere between them had always been professional, but the relationship was strained. Mr Chatterjee has since been dismissed by the Western Isles Health Board and lost a case at an industrial tribunal. The hearing continues.

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

Jasper claimed that his employers, the Galtee Deer Farm

Anthony Probert, 58, of Abergavenny, was fined earlier this year after the RSPCA discovered the animal in a weak and emaciated condition in a field near Abergavenny.

The hearing was adjourned for a month.

THE BIG NETWORK.

[illegible]

Over-30s have less chance of test-tube baby, say scientists

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

TEST-TUBE baby treatment cannot turn back the clock for ageing women, researchers have found.

Success rates for *in vitro* fertilisation plummet as women age, because of effects on the egg and the womb. Women over 35 have a sharply reduced chance of conceiving artificially, as do those who try the natural way. A study of 37,000 cycles of IVF treatment carried out in Britain up to 1994 showed that success rates were highest for women aged 30 and under.

Much of the attention given to *in vitro* fertilisation has focused on the skill of individual specialists and the success of different techniques. But Allan Templeton and colleagues in the University of Aberdeen's obstetrics and gynaecology department say that the characteristics of the couples seeking treatment are equally important.

The researchers examined the records of all IVF treatments carried out in Britain from 1981. The overall success rate per IVF treatment was 14 per cent but women aged 30 and under were more likely to succeed. The highest success rates were 17 per cent for those aged 30 and 16 per cent for those aged 25. By the age of 35 the rate falls to 14 per cent but then drops steeply to 7 per cent at 40 and 2 per cent at 45. The

Cervical cancer may be going undetected because smears taken from women are inadequate for making a diagnosis. Peter Sasieni, a scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, says. Figures showed that more than one in three cervical smears in some parts of the country were rejected, partly because of poor smear-taking. Of 4.5 million smears in 1994-95, more than 350,000 were rejected. Rates varied among 183 laboratories from 0.2 per cent to more than 35 per cent.

latest figures show that in 1994 more than 10,000 cycles of treatment were given to women over 35.

The researchers, writing in *The Lancet*, say they found that older women could significantly improve their chances by using a donated egg. In Britain, regulations require that women who donate eggs are 35 or under. There was still a downward trend in success rates among women over 30 using donated eggs, suggesting an ageing effect on the womb making it less receptive.

Women who had been pregnant before, especially those

who had had a previous child by IVF, had a greater chance. The cause of infertility did not seem to affect a woman's chances of success but with each failure of IVF her chances diminished.

In a commentary on the study, Marsden Wagner, a specialist from Copenhagen, said that the introduction of new techniques since 1994, such as the microscopic injection of sperm into the egg, were unlikely to have influenced the success rates.

Abortions on women living in England and Wales rose by 6.7 per cent in the first quarter of the year, following last year's scare over the Pill. It was the highest level since 1991. Family planning experts believe that thousands stopped taking the Pill after a warning from the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines that some low-dose versions could double the risk of a potentially fatal blood clot.

The Government came under fire at the time for releasing the research without first alerting GPs.

An American team has tracked down a gene that predisposes men to prostate cancer, the third commonest form of cancer in males. The discovery may eventually help to identify individuals at risk and develop treatment.

Accident-prone hospitals cost the health service £150m a year

MORE than a million accidents happen in NHS hospitals each year, costing £150 million to treat, according to the first investigation into safety standards.

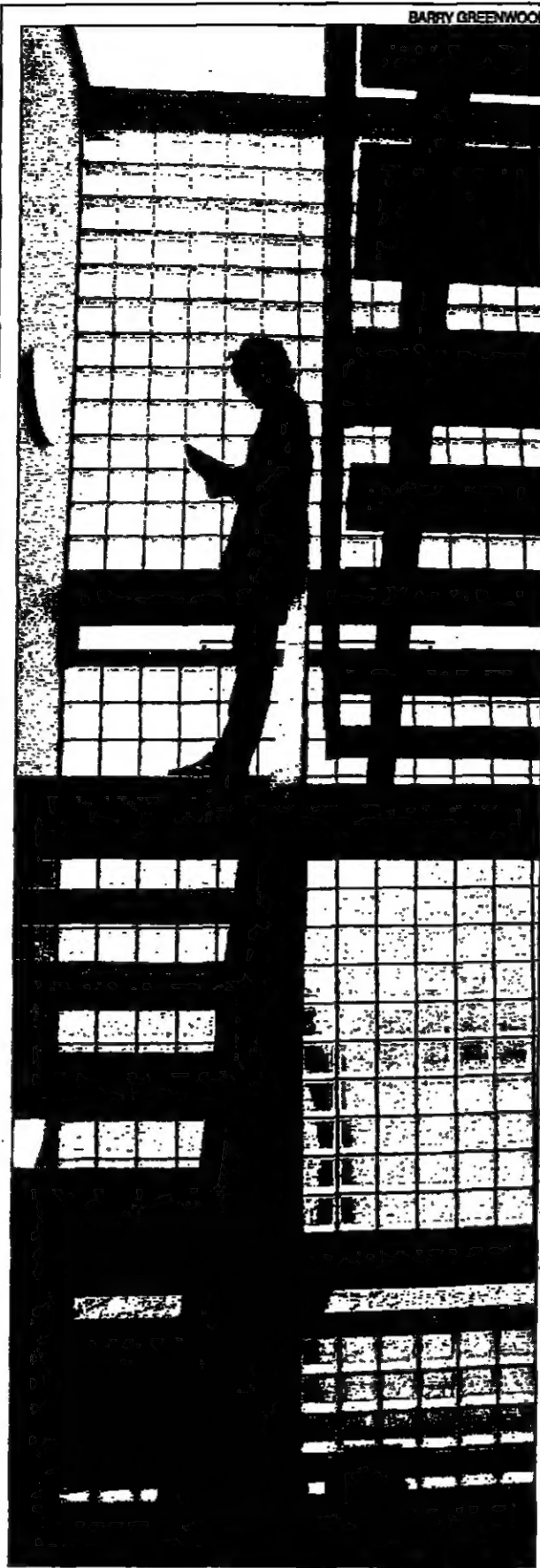
The investigation by the National Audit Office found that most NHS trusts were failing to meet health and safety standards laid down in law. The study, which examined 30 NHS hospitals over

eight weeks, found that 75 per cent of accidents involved patients or visitors. Most suffered minor injuries in slips, trips and falls, although some had broken bones and head cuts. Inpatients were particularly vulnerable because they could be disorientated by drug treatment.

The report said that hospital managers could do more to reduce risks by providing non-

slip flooring, improving cleaning techniques and urging training staff to be more safety conscious.

Staff most commonly suffered injuries from hypodermic needles and back problems caused by lifting patients and equipment. Of the 30 hospitals visited, 23 complied with less than half of the health and safety rules on manual handling.



One of Hodder's stairwells at Salford University

Architecture's outsider on stairway to success

By MARCUS BINNEY

A YOUNG outsider has beaten the rising stars and established names of British architecture to win the £20,000 prize for the Royal Institute of British Architects' Building of the Year.

The new Stirling prize, sponsored by *The Sunday Times*, is intended as architecture's answer to the Turner and Booker prizes. Bookmakers had quoted Sir Michael Hopkins's Queen's Building at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as 11-10 favourite.

However, the judges chose differently, awarding the prize to Stephen Hodder of Manchester for the century building at Salford University, which houses the design faculty, prompting the comment from RIBA: "Red brick has beaten Oxbridge."

Owen Luder, the institute's president and one of the judges, said: "It is low cost, fast build and an excellent example of what architects do best: making three dimensional use of space."

"It is a building that invites you to explore. Wherever you walk you get a different vista."

The Architects' Journal recently described Mr Hodder as "one of a small posse of uncompromising modernists based in Manchester's Castlefield quarter - part of the region's Britpack", praising his pursuit of the rational, minimal and modern.

Initially the £35 million century building was intended to house the schools of electronics engineering and industrial design. But before he knew it, Mr Hodder was building for the design faculty.

The striking bowed front now contains lecture rooms and studios while inside a gorge-like atrium, overlooked by galleries and crisscrossed by bridges, runs through the building.

Mr Luder continued: "The Hodder building lifts a whole rundown area, providing an example for others to follow. In the Eighties, some



Hodder: modernist

new buildings wanted to use every material under the sun." By contrast, Mr Hodder's design is strongly monochrome, using stainless steel panels and glass to create reflections and refractions.

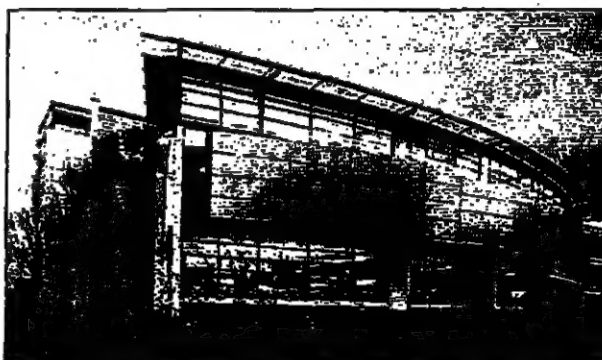
According to *The Architects' Journal*: "The user has an acute awareness of weather conditions" which not everyone would consider a

plus in Salford. The staggered sawn-off back of the building may also be seen by some as a revival of the hated brutalism of the Sixties rather than as an essay in today's fashionable deconstruction.

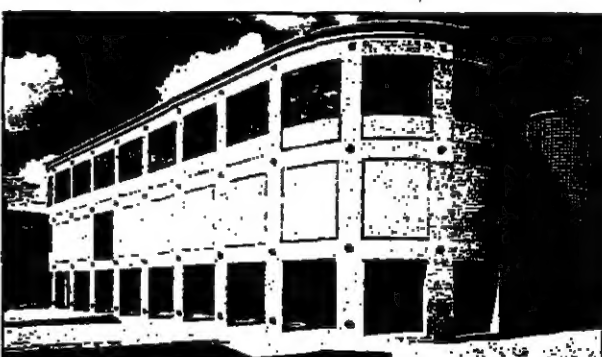
Mr Hodder, 40, "is young for an architect", RIBA said. Though little known outside architectural circles, he has won an award for an eye-catching swimming pool at Colne in Lancashire and has made a name designing small modern surgeries for general practitioners.

Both Sir Norman Foster and Lord Rogers of Riverside were eliminated at an early stage of this year's awards but Sir Michael Hopkins remained favourite with his Emmanuel College building, which had already won the Royal Fine Art Commission/BSkyB Building of the Year award this summer.

As well as Mr Luder, the judges were Sir Anthony Caro, the sculptor, and Hugh Pearman, architecture critic of *The Sunday Times*.

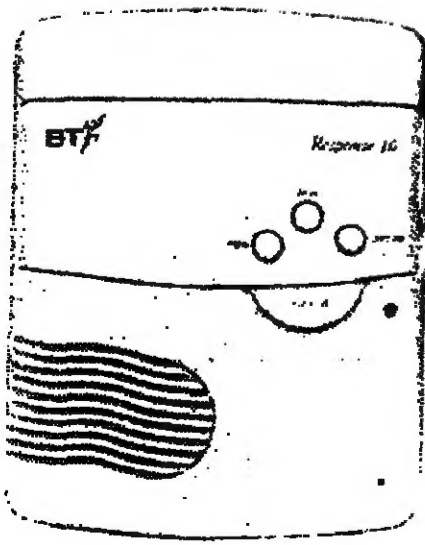


Centenary Building at Salford University, above, which beat the Queen's Building, Cambridge



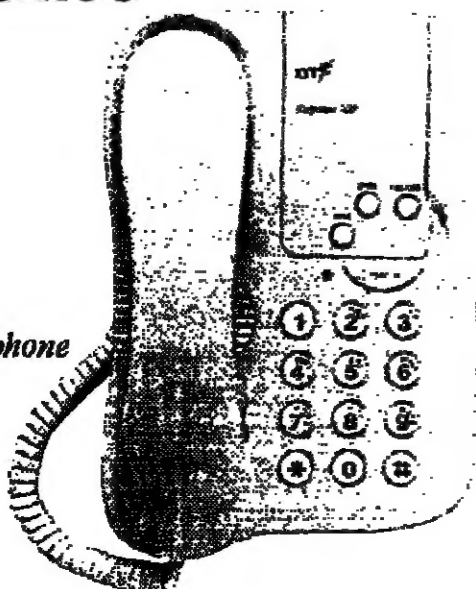
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Term-time jobs put more money into students' pockets

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENTS today have a higher income than those who studied at the end of the 1980s, according to an independent report that dismisses claims that thousands live in poverty. It found that an increasing number were taking jobs during term-time.

The survey by the Policy Studies Institute found that only mature students had less money in real terms than the class of 1988-89. Those under 26 had a higher income and more than a third did not take out a student loan.

However, the study, sponsored by the Department for Education and Employment, acknowledged that the improvement in income had come at a price. Today's students were deeper in debt and worked longer hours in part-time employment than their predecessors.

Claire Callender and Elaine Kempson, the report's authors, said that the apparently manageable financial position

of most students masked areas of hardship. Lone parents in particular were finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet and owed ten times more than the average student. The average student received £3,615 from all sources in 1995-96, but spent £5,091. The gap was bridged by student loans, commercial credit and delayed payment of bills.

The report said that the amount received in grants, student loans and parental contributions roughly covered essential costs such as accommodation, food and course expenses. But students spent more than £2,500 on other items, such as entertainment. More than £500 was spent on alcohol and tobacco, but this was no higher than other low-income young people.

The proportion of income from grants had fallen since the last survey, but families had stepped in to meet part of the shortfall. Eight out of ten

students received gifts from their parents and relatives. Most students took holiday jobs and a growing proportion also worked during terms. Students earned an average of £162 during the Christmas and Easter breaks, and £712 during the summer holiday.

Dr Callender said: "Although students are better off in real terms than they were in the late Eighties, they are having to find jobs and borrow large sums in order to complete their courses."

The survey, based on almost 2,000 students' expenditure diaries, was dismissed by the National Union of Students. Douglas Trainer, the president, said: "If students have so much money, why do nearly 70 per cent work part-time to the detriment of their degree results?"

Student Finances, £16.95, from BEBC Distribution, 01202 715555.

Education, page 39



Sheena Rae was taunted by girls jealous of her hair

Bullied girl's cry for help wins place in poetry book

By DAVID CHARTER

A SCHOOLGIRL who wrote a poem about the bullying she suffered has won praise in a competition for writers of all ages. Sheena Rae, 13, was taunted by girls jealous of her waist-length hair and turned to poetry when a counsellor advised her to put her feelings down on paper.

Her relatives were so impressed that they encouraged her to enter the poem, *Being Bullied*, in a contest run by the International Society of Poets. It reached the semi-finals and has been published in the society's latest anthology of poems, *Voices in the Wind*.

Glenn Feist, a spokeswoman for the society, said: "The words spell out clearly what it is like to be picked on at school. They are really a cry for help."

Miss Rae, of Soderham, near Halesworth, Suffolk, wrote the poem last year when she was at Halesworth Middle School. The bullying stopped after she moved to Bungay High School, Suffolk, this term.

Last month Vijay Singh Shahiri, 13, was found hanged at his home in

Manchester after being praised at school for his writing about bullying. An inquest will be held into his death in the new year.

Miss Rae said: "Although I never got beaten up, I was always being picked on and called names. One girl used to taunt me and got her friends to do the same. They made comments about me all the time and things went missing from my bag. It made me really unhappy and at times I wished I was dead. I was starting to believe what they said about me being no good as a person. As English is my

best subject, I decided to write a poem about what it was like. It was a good way of getting it off my chest. I sent the poem off after my grandmother saw a competition entry form in a magazine, but I never imagined it would do very well. I just hope that it may make bullies think twice before they pick on others."

Her mother, Patricia, said: "When I saw the poem I was quite knocked back. It made me realise just how much she had been suffering. She has got lovely, long, blonde hair and I think other girls were jealous of her."

BEING BULLIED

Why do you bully me?
Leave me alone.
Can't you hear me saying
go away?
But you have your same
story every day.
Another name or a word
that is said
Gets bottled up inside my
head.
I won't tell a teacher, but I
tell my mum and dad
The words that you say

make my life dull and sad.
Do you have fun watching
my tears?
Do you laugh over my
fears?
You and I know what
makes me cry.
You and I know what makes
me wish I would die.
A little message to the
bullies out there.
Leave me alone 'cause it
just isn't fair.

Adverts don't sell say whiz-kids who lost their spark

By CAROL MIDDLEY

FEWER than a third of advertising executives believe their campaigns help to sell products, a survey has revealed. Instead they are plagued by self-doubt and insecurity, and dream of giving it all up for another career.

In spite of their "whiz-kid" image, the survey of 600 advertising employees from 50 agencies found the industry weary from overwork. More than half use drugs or know a colleague who does.

Forty per cent of women said sex discrimination was rife and 73 per cent described advertising as a "terrible career" for working mothers, because of its unpredictability and 12-hour days.

Although spending on advertising by Britain's leading 100 companies has increased by 15 per cent on last year, only 28 per cent of advertising employees were prepared to say that they genuinely believed the campaigns were effective.

Dominic Mills, editorial director of the industry's trade magazine, *Campaign*, which conducted the survey, said: "We knew that people were down but we didn't realise it was this bad. This is an industry plagued by self-

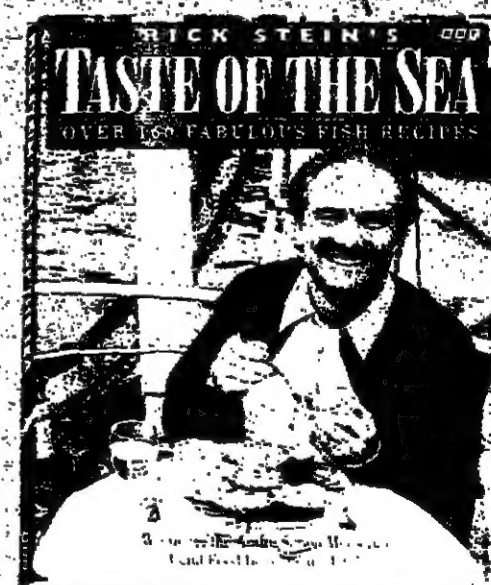
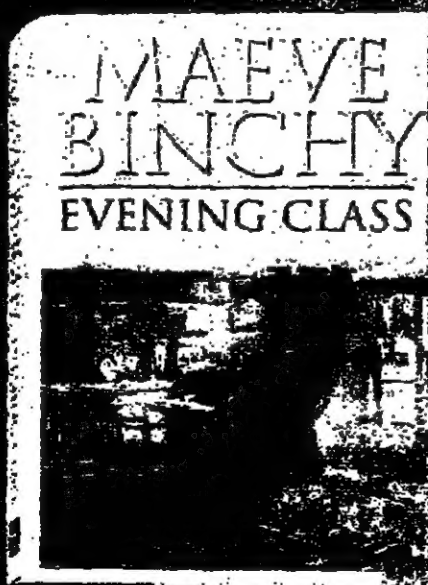
doubt. The Eighties image of the garrulous ad executive in red glasses and braces is no more. What this survey reflects is a high level of insecurity. Advertising is a very fragile business and confidence is everything."

"It is staggering to think that so many people in advertising believe their efforts are falling short of the mark but this is clearly what people privately think. There is an element of them shooting themselves in the foot by admitting this but part of it can be blamed on frustration, with many advertisers requesting safe solutions. The London advertising scene used to be among the most innovative in the world."

Mr Mills said that between 1990 and 1992, a fifth of people in the advertising industry lost their jobs. Asked what job they would most like to do instead, the survivors said they would become barristers, writers, actors or artists. Forty-four per cent are Labour voters, 38 per cent Conservative and 10 per cent Lib Dem.

Salaries ranged from £750,000 for shooting commercials and £159,000 for a creative director to juniors on £8,000.

At WHSmith's prices, Santa will need more helpers.



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50%



Canada wants to kill up to 400,000 seals next spring. Please help us stop them.

Out of 268,921** seals officially killed in Canada last spring, about 75%*** were baby seal pups... just days or weeks old. Now the Canadians want to expand the slaughter up to 400,000**. As if this is not bad enough in itself, the international fur dealers are working behind the scenes to get the European trade ban on "whitecoat" and "blueback" seal pups lifted, so their skins can once again be sold in the UK.

Key decisions will be made in the next few weeks, so your help is vital.

Help IFAW end this mass slaughter of the innocent seal babies.

S.O.S. Sign On for Seals - add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack.

FREEPHONE today 0500 18 18 18. Expose Canada's Shame.

Source: The Canadian Seal Industry's Seal Statistics, published in the Canadian Seal Industry's Seal Statistics, 23rd October 1996.
**Source: 2002 "Seal Report" - Canada and the World's Seal Industry, published in the Canadian Seal Industry's Seal Statistics, May 21, 1996.
***Source: 1996 Seal Quality Report - International Fur Federation, May 21, 1996.

cutting the cost of Christmas.

WHatever they're into, get into WHSmith

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By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Mr Maclean said that

Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers said ragging would humiliate young offenders

□ The maximum penalty for indecent assault on a man by a juvenile offender aged between 10 and 17 is to increase to ten years' detention, Mr Maclean announced. At present the maximum is two years' detention for offenders aged 15 to 17. There is no custodial penalty for 10 to 14-year-olds.



Joanne Cholerton, investigative psychologist: "Cracker makes me laugh"


By A STAFF REPORTER

The force says its offender-profiling programme is unique in Britain. Detective Chief Inspector Ray Mallon said: "Joanne will not be directly involved. She will basically supply ammunition for detectives to catch the criminals."

BY IAN MURRAY

The number of callouts nationally has grown by 6 per cent from 1,085,519 to 1,148,152 a year while the number of fire personnel has fallen from 63,517 to 62,837.

By JOHN SHAW



Mrs Bateman, who is retired, said: "Finding out about Mr Benz is a great joy."

□ A reconnaissance photograph taken by a German spy plane has been used to prove that a footpath at Shipton Gorge, near Bridport, Dorset, was in use during the war, defeating a landowner's objection to public access.

objection to public access.

Tories cannot help you, Labour tells tax lobby firms

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR mounted a vigorous defence of its planned windfall tax yesterday, warning the privatised utilities against trying to avoid it by "climbing into bed" with the Tories.

Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, seized on reports that Michael Heseltine was backing the establishment of a lobby group of privatised companies that are intent on undermining Labour's tax policy.

Winding up after a Commons debate in which the Deputy Prime Minister had led the attack on the windfall tax, Mr Darling claimed that the Tories were hand-in-glove with the privatised industries.

Mr Heseltine is a prisoner of the 'privileged' few on the boards of utilities," Mr Darling said. "No sensible industry would contemplate climbing into bed with a campaign of this sort."

Plans for the lobby group are said to be co-ordinated by Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways and president of the Confederation of British Industry. Sir Colin has invited about 80 privatised companies to a breakfast meeting in London next month, with the aim of forming a group dedicated to promoting the benefits of privatisation.

But the group is expected to look at measures to avoid paying the windfall tax, which

Labour hopes will raise up to £5 billion to help to put the young unemployed back to work. Some of the privatised utilities have already given warning that they would take legal action against a Labour government.

Last night Labour aides confirmed that British Airways would be liable for the windfall tax if it was deemed to have made excess profits. They also said that experts had advised the party that any legal challenge would fail.

John Prescott, deputy Labour leader, told MPs that the levy would be applied to all privatised utilities that had gained excess profits. "All privatised utilities will be considered as candidates for the levy without fear or favour."

After Tory taunts that Labour would not provide details, Mr Prescott emphasised that it would be a one-off levy. But aides of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, later said that although each company would know its liability after a Labour government's first Budget the tax could be paid in instalments.

Earlier Mr Heseltine and Mr Prescott clashed over the dangers and merits of a windfall tax. Mr Heseltine, who was less combative than usu-



al, urged his opponent to say which companies would have to pay and how much.

He pointed out that ten million shareholders had pension and insurance policies based on extensive investment in the utilities. The tax was bound to lead to rising prices or loss of jobs, or both. "Labour wants to punish all of

us — everyone with a phone, with a gas bill, an electricity bill, a water bill."

Mr Prescott said: "The reality is that privatised utilities were sold off cheaply and regulated weakly, deliberately to allow the City to make a financial killing... Independent experts confirm that the levy can be raised from excess

profits without passing on the cost to customers."

He accused Mr Heseltine of "weeping crocodile tears for the taxpayer, the shareholder, the pensioner". But he had presided over 22 tax rises and was in a government that had broken the link between pensions and earnings to fund tax cuts for the better-off.

Brown's reply to 'Tory lies' reveals shifts in policy

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN'S line-by-line rebuttal of the Tories' tax and spend charges revealed more about Labour's policy than the draft manifesto programme that it published this summer.

Over the past two years Labour has made a number of policy changes, several of which have not been formally announced by the Labour leadership, or published in policy documents.

Labour's last health document, *Renewing the NHS*, stated categorically that Labour would scrap both compulsory competitive tendering in the health service and private finance for NHS capital projects. Previous papers had suggested that Labour would phase out private beds and recreate a regional structure. Labour's rebuttal document on Wednesday made clear that all these policies have been abolished.

The paper says: "There are no plans to phase out private provision in the NHS." It also dismisses as a "lie" Tory claims that Labour intends to end compulsory competitive tendering in the NHS. "The truth is that Labour has no objections to fair comparisons between public service and private sector provision."

It is more vague about Tory claims that it will abolish compulsory competitive tendering in local government. "The truth is that Labour is committed to securing best value — a combination of both price and quality — in public services."

The Tory document quoted a statement from Harriet Harman in April, when she was Shadow Health Secretary, expressing her opposition to private finance in the NHS. In its rebuttal, Labour said that it had no objection to private finance for capital projects, citing a comment made by Mrs Harman in June. It also made clear that Labour has no intention of reintroducing a regional health structure, and dismisses as a "lie" that it intends to spend more on funding community care, or on rights for disabled people. Plans for the disabled would involve merging the present budgets of the National Advisory Council on the Employment of People with Disabilities and the National Disability Council.

The document also says that Labour will not abolish the Jobseeker's Allowance, an unemployment benefit payable

for only six months compared with the 12 months of the benefit it replaces. Labour originally opposed this.

But one of its most revealing admissions is on nursery places. Labour's original policy to secure a nursery place for all children aged three and four has been weakened. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, told the party conference last month that Labour would offer nursery places to all four-year-olds and set targets to provide

places for those three-year-olds whose parents wanted them to attend. Now the party says: "The truth is Labour will provide a nursery place for all four-year-olds using funds from the nursery vouchers scheme."

Sources close to David Blunkett said that the rebuttal document had not been cleared with him. An aide said there would be targets for three-year-olds but they would not be set until provision had been made for four-year-olds.

Time to review Britain's dated electoral ways

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Referendums are becoming part of British constitutional practice on a scale that would have been unimaginable a few years ago. But party promises to hold referendums have run well ahead of any agreement about how they should be run. Potential problems have been underlined by Sir James Goldsmith's campaign for a European referendum: how should the question be framed? This gap has been filled by a new report from an independent, cross-party commission set up by the Constitution Unit and the Electoral Reform Society. The Commission has established an important niche as a shadow civil service in its assessment of how reform could be implemented. Yesterday's report on *The Conduct of Referendums* has far-reaching implications for politics which go well beyond its dry-sounding title.

There has so far been only one nationwide referendum, in June 1975 on membership of the European Community, though there have been separate ones in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. That was, at the time and until recently, regarded as exceptional. But now all three main parties have proposed holding a referendum before Britain could join a single currency, while Labour has proposed referendums on whether the electoral system for the Commons should change and at least four separate ones on devolution and a strategic authority for London. The Liberal Democrats back some, though not all, of these specific proposals and, in general, are committed to the use of referendums on important issues.

So we may be deluged by referendums, at least in the first 18 months of a new government. The commission, chaired by Sir Patrick Nairne, an eminent former permanent secretary, proposes a series of sensible guidelines about how to achieve proper balance, broadcasting rules, public information, length of campaigns and nature of questions. Most are not contentious but some, such as ensuring that any threshold should be set as a percentage of votes cast rather than of the

eligible electorate, would avoid the bitterness left by the 1979 Scottish referendum.

But if referendums are to become more frequent, should a permanent new framework be created? Most politicians are wary of making referendums too easy and are dubious about suggestions that they could be authorised merely through secondary legislation without a lengthy debate, rather than by a full-scale new Bill. These doubts will have been reinforced by the Government's crass mishandling of the European directives on monetary union. By resisting a debate on the floor of the Commons, ministers have maximised opposition and turned an issue of importance, though mainly of interest to the sceptics, into one of the rights of MPs — a self-inflicted and avoidable row.

A generic referendum Act could, however, set up a permanent organisational framework, leaving the political matters about questions to be decided on each occasion. A referendum commission has obvious attractions, but even better would be a permanent electoral commission, as exists in many other democracies and is backed by the main opposition parties here. A Hansard Society report a few years ago proposed that such a commission should take over the present diffuse responsibility for running elections, boundary reviews, allocating broadcasting time and monitoring party accounts. Such a commission is long overdue, especially if it took an interest in party fundraising and adverts.

British elections have for long been conducted through 19th century laws intended to stamp out corruption and by informal understandings. As with so much else in politics, these checks no longer apply. If there are to be more innovations, such as referendums, a clearer statutory framework is even more necessary — administered in an open way by an independent commission.

PETER RIDDELL

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Blunkett: sources say he was not consulted

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Sony Centre

More than 50 Holocaust Nazis traced in Canada

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW YORK-based private detective yesterday claimed to have traced 53 alleged former Nazis in Canada, many of whom appeared to be guilty of actively taking part in the Holocaust.

Steve Rambam, a bullish private eye who has worked for the US Government, said that he posed as a history professor from a non-existent college in Belize and went knocking on the doors of former German soldiers who are now living in Canada. He secretly tape-recorded their conversations.

Mr Rambam claims that what he found was the equivalent of the communities of old Nazis who fled to South America after the Second World War.

His claims, broadcast in Jerusalem yesterday on Israeli television and to be detailed in today's *Jerusalem Post*, were attacked by one leading Jewish group as "mock heroics" but are likely to revive debate about official attitudes by past Canadian governments to former members of Hitler's armed forces.

Mr Rambam claimed that he found several of the alleged war criminals living in predominantly Jewish neighbourhoods of Montreal and Ottawa. One man, who talked openly about killing Jews in the war, was renting out the top floor of his house to a young rabbi and his family.



Hitler: hidden disciples

"They must think it is a good place to hide," he said. Of 62 people he approached, only four denied their wartime identities, and seven gave detailed accounts of personal involvement in the deaths of Jews, he claimed.

Renata Skotnicka-Zadzman, a leading member of Canada's Jewish community, reacted to the story with shock yesterday. "We have suspected that there were a lot of them, but oh my God," she said, on hearing where the suspects lived.

Mr Rambam, 39, added that many of the names of the suspects had long been known to the leading Nazi-hunting organisation, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, but to his surprise they had not acted.

The Toronto branch of the Wiesenthal organisation last night agreed that it had known many names, but ac-

Germany will keep open its investigation centre for Nazi war crimes for as long as there are cases to be prosecuted. Ulrich Goll, the Justice Minister for Baden-Württemberg, said. The 16 federal states had decided at a Bonn meeting to maintain the centre near Stuttgart.

The centre's future was in doubt because the number of Nazi trials has fallen and Albert Stein, a former director, died this year. (Reuters)

used Mr Rambam of "bad timing". Sol Littman, head of the Wiesenthal Centre in Ottawa, said that 3,000 Nazi war criminals entered Canada after the war, mostly between 1946 and 1951. He claimed that some of them were admitted after they had helped Allied intelligence operations against Communism.

Mr Rambam started his investigation with a list of 1,000 names. He discovered that 40 were dead, but he has already managed to trace 250 of what he calls "the worst cases".

One of Mr Rambam's interviewees, Antanas Kenstavičius, a Lithuanian, British Columbia, is facing deportation from Canada for alleged war crimes while police chief in Svencionys, Lithuania, in the early 1940s.

Mr Rambam, posing as

Professor Salvatore Romano of the fictitious St Paul's University of the Americas in Belize, and accompanied by two Israeli journalists, interviewed Mr Kenstavičius.

According to a tape produced by Mr Rambam, Mr Kenstavičius described the shooting of numerous Jews in Ignalina, Lithuania, during a six-day period. "Bang! And they fall down," he appears to say on the tape in his broken English. "Some time, repeat. Bang, bang! And they all fall in ditch. All the day. After, there're no men. Than the women in separate camp. Separate barracks. The kids go with the wives."

Some of the men, apparently not suspecting that Professor Romano was anything but genuine, posed for photographs beside their wartime uniforms and provided yellowing snapshots of themselves in the 1940s.

Jewish groups have long criticised past Canadian governments for allegedly accommodating, or at least not prosecuting, former Nazis.

LI Ramer, a military judge yesterday ordered the release from house arrest of Karl Hass, 84, a former SS major suspected of involvement in the massacre of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome in March 1944, and ruled that his case should instead be considered by the civil judiciary. (Reuters)



The advertisement promotes a weekend to Paris for those "with nothing to do" — a Bob Dole remark after his poll defeat

Jobless Dole flies flag for the French

FROM IAN BRIDIE IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE said if he failed to win the White House he would just go home, but his losing campaign has led to another role — bailing for Air France.

A photograph of Mr Dole, smiling and waving, appeared in advertisements for the airline in six major American newspapers yesterday. The ironically succinct headline asks: "Not doing anything?" The text promoted low fares from the United

States for a long weekend in Paris. It said: "If you have a little extra time on your hands, there's never been a better reason for a getaway to Paris..."

The idea was inspired by the comment Mr Dole made in his concession speech after losing his presidential bid. He said: "Tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do."

Alan Blum, president of a New York advertising agency, nervously sent his idea to Washington, seeking permission to use it. Word came back the advertise-

ment was on Mr Dole's desk and he was laughing. Better still, he was happy to go along with the joke.

Mr Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, turned down free round-trip tickets to Paris on Concorde, not part of the special offer to the public, as payment. Instead they asked that a donation of \$3,000 (£1,800) be made to their favourite charity, which provides housing and day care for the low-income elderly in Washington. The sum was extremely modest, given the spin-off publicity for Air France.

German fury over Iran death threats

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY, Europe's main champion of "critical dialogue" with Iran, was yesterday close to abandoning its conciliatory policies after death threats against German prosecutors.

The dispute between Tehran and Bonn has become poisonous. Every day this week about 1,000 supporters of the radical Hezbollah group have besieged the German Embassy in Tehran; almost 300 German expatriates in the country have been advised to stay at home.

The latest threat comes from clerics in the holy Iranian city of Qom, who said that the German prosecutors should be condemned in the same way as Salman Rushdie, the novelist, unless they apologised to Iran.

Prosecutors in Berlin have accused the Iranian regime of steering a hit team that murdered three Kurdish dissident leaders in a restaurant in the city. The verdict is due in January and the Iranian Government is clearly trying to

exert as much pressure as it can to secure the acquittal of the five defendants.

But the efforts have backfired. Carl-Dieter Spranger, the Development Minister, yesterday became the first German Cabinet minister to call publicly for an end to "critical dialogue". He said: "Iran's state terrorism against those who think differently has once again emerged as a result of this trial. The death threats against representatives of German justice are intolerable and show how the Tehran regime tramples on human rights. This removes any basis for so-called critical dialogue."

This policy, agreed at the Edinburgh summit in 1992, was aimed at keeping lines of communication open with Tehran and using that leverage to gain human rights concessions. Yet very little seems to have been achieved: the fatwa against Rushdie remains in force, and there are no signs of Iran restraining militant groups.

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SALE

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CREDA 50cm Slot-In Electric Cooker
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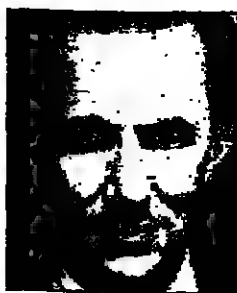
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on how to raise
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Prince's new album
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Becker mixes
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1996



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, offered a tantalising glimpse of plans for the Budget yesterday. They went back in the famous red case until Tuesday

Safeway store openings to create 5,200 jobs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SAFeway, the supermarket chain that cut its staff numbers 18 months ago, is to create 5,200 jobs through its store opening programme, the company said yesterday. Since cutting about 3,000 jobs, the company has added 3,200 to its pay roll. After the new round of hirings, which will take place over two years, it expects to have added a net 3,000 staff over a three-year period. This will take its total number of staff to more than 70,000. Around 65 per cent of the new jobs being created will be part-time.

This was in line with an announcement earlier this month by Marks & Spencer that it is creating 2,000 new positions. By contrast Kwik Save, the discount supermarket chain, has revealed plans to shed 1,900 staff. Safeway, which in profit terms is the third largest supermarket chain behind Tesco and J Sainsbury and ahead of Asda, is to open ten superstores in the second half of this year, on top of seven opened in the first half. It then aims to open about 15 next year, adding around 450,000 square feet in total.

The company yesterday reported an 7 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £228 million in the six months ended October 12. This was in line with City expectations but nonetheless triggered some upgraded forecasts, with UBS shifting from £430 million to £440 million for the full year and NatWest Markets also upping its forecast to £440 million from £432.5 million.

Safeway's like-for-like sales grew 5.1 per cent - close to the sector average - while sales from new space added a further 5.2 per cent growth, taking total sales to £3.5 billion. The petrol price war, which has now abated, knocked £10 million of forecast profits. In the first five weeks of the second half, like-for-like sales were 5 per cent ahead. The company said food inflation in the period has been subdued but said it considered the second half had started well.

Colin Smith, chief executive, said that after a trial at its Reigate store, the Safeway self payment system which allows customers to pay for goods without queuing at tills is to be rolled out to all the 100 stores fitted with its Shop & Go system. Shop & Go is designed to speed the shopping process by allowing customers to scan and register the price of goods they pick up as they go around the store. Mr Smith said that there had been less theft than the company had feared resulting from the scheme. The company is running a trial in Basildon, Essex, of a convenience store at a BP station. The joint venture set up by the two companies plans to open on some 100 sites within three years. Gross margins, excluding petrol, were 0.1 per cent down in the first half and remain under pressure because of the company's response to competitors' price campaigns, such as Tesco's Unbeatable Value. However, efficiency savings meant the net margin was stable at 6.9 per cent. Sales per square foot reached £14.63, close to the £15 target the company set for itself 18 months ago and which it did not expect to achieve for another 18 months. Safeway's ABC loyalty card has now attracted 5.6 million users, the company revealed. Earnings per share are 9 per cent ahead at 14.5p while the interim dividend has also been boosted 9 per cent to 4.4p. It is payable on February 10.

Temps, page 27

MPs attack Rothschild role in coal sell-off

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE all-party Public Accounts Committee yesterday attacked the Department of Trade over the coal sell-off. The MPs also questioned a £2.5 million success fee for NM Rothschild, the merchant bank handling the privatisation, and complained that insolvency investigations into a company involving the brother of the successful bidder were not considered.

The role of Rothschild has already attracted controversy because of the appointment of Lord Wakeham to its board as non-executive director last year. Lord Wakeham was Energy Secretary from 1989 to 1992 when he paved the way for the privatisation of British Coal. He joined Rothschild just six months after leaving the Cabinet. Rothschild was appointed to advise the Government on the future of the coal industry in 1991.

The committee of MPs attacked payments to NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, which received £9.1 million in fees and a £2.5 million success bonus. The conditions for the success bonus were agreed after two conditions had been completed by Rothschild. The committee expressed concern that the success bonus had been agreed by the autumn of 1993, the success criteria were not formally agreed until June 1994, by which time two of the stages which had been used as the basis for the success fee criteria had been completed.

Rothschild was given the full remit for the privatisation after completing preliminary work. Other potential banking advisers were not invited to tender for the full process or to set out their charges. The committee expressed concern about the lack of fee comparisons between bankers and the structure of the success bonus paid to Rothschild which did not seem to be based on an hourly rate. Rothschild valued British Coal's three English businesses at between £371 million and £388 million. RJB Mining, which bought all three of the English businesses that British Coal had been split into, paid £815 million, having originally bid £914 million. Although RJB revised down its bid in the process, other unpreferred bidders were not told of this and had no opportunity to enter the race at an advanced stage.

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	3853.8	(-9.0)
Yield All share	4.01%	(-3.47)
Nikkei	21163.34	(-46.82)
New York	6405.05	(-24.97)
Dow Jones	741.96	(-1.99)
S&P Composite		
Federal Funds	5.75%	(0.00)
Long Bond	101.1%	(0.01)
Yield	6.41%	(0.41)
3-month interbank	6.75%	(0.00)
Libor 3m	110.0%	(110.0)
2 Index		
New York		
DJIA	1.8880	(1.8810)
London		
FTSE 100	1.5986	(1.5773)
DAX	2.5450	(2.5120)
FF	5.8944	(5.4955)
FF	2.1404	(2.1252)
Yield	101.1%	(101.12)
2 Index	92.8	(92.0)
Tokyo close Yen	111.80	
Brent 15-day (bar)	822.88	(822.00)
London close	8378.56	(8378.15)
* denotes midday trading price		

Storehouse up

Booming overseas franchise sales and a stronger contribution from British Home Stores helped Storehouse, the retail group, to better than expected results for the first half. Pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent to £37.5 million on turnover ahead by 14 per cent.

Payout cut

Babcock International, the engineering group, is halving its interim dividend payment despite a small recovery in first-half profits. Page 32

Consumer spending at highest since 1989

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CONSUMER spending is at its highest since 1989, according to data published yesterday, increasing City pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to resist making sweeping tax cuts in next week's Budget. The revised figures for third-quarter gross domestic product show that quarterly consumer spending increased by 1.1 per cent, taking the annual rate to 3.3 per cent. Separate data, also published yesterday, found that the balance of payments surplus in the second quarter was larger than expected, at £792 million - the strongest trading performance for ten years. The data sent the pound soaring. Sterling's trade weighted index closed up 0.5 at 92.8 after the pound gained more than a cent against the dollar to close at \$1.6892 and

over two pennings against the mark to finish at DM2.5326. Quarterly GDP growth remained unrevised at 0.8 per cent but annual growth for the third quarter was revised upwards to 2.4 per cent from 2.3 per cent. Capital investment fell by 2.2 per cent in the third quarter, prompting concern among economists that the gap between consumer demand and investment is widening, increasing the chances of an acceleration in inflation. There was also a worrying rise in the GDP deflator, a government measure for inflation factored into GDP, which increased to an annual level of 2.9 per cent. But stockbuilding made a positive contribution of 0.2 per cent in the third quarter after destocking knocked 1.2 per cent off GDP in the previous quarter.

A&L group threatens £100m exit

THE Alliance & Leicester Building Society has accused an action group opposing its plans for conversion of using shock tactics after the group's members threatened to withdraw £100 million of savings (Caroline Merrell writes). The group, headed by Patrick Mountain, a retired former agent of the society, is objecting to A&L's proposals that most members should get a flat distribution of £250 shares, worth about £1,000. The group wants those with bigger savings to receive more shares. Mr Mountain claims that 1,200 members are planning to withdraw their savings after the meeting to vote on conversion on December 10. A society spokesman said: "This seems like a pretty mean-spirited action... £1,000 means a great deal to a lot of people."

Pennington, page 29

Japan closes down commercial bank

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE authorities yesterday closed down an insolvent regional bank crippled by bad loans - the first time an ordinary commercial bank was ordered to halt operations since the war. Anxious depositors rushed to branches of the Hanwa Bank, a second tier bank based in Osaka and Wakayama prefectures in western Japan, but panic was averted by a government promise that all deposits would be secured. The Ministry of Finance said it suspended all business at the Hanwa Bank apart from deposit withdrawals because its bad loans far exceeded total capital. The problem loans totalled 190 billion yen (£1 billion), compared with total capital of ¥20.3 billion yen. The loans piled up during the 1980s' soaring property

prices. With the collapse in land values, Hanwa was saddled with massive loans that were impossible to recover. Last year Japan suffered its first bank failure since the war when Hyogo Bank became a casualty. Another small regional bank went under this year. Ten credit unions and one credit association have also failed since December 1994. Hiroshi Mitsuoka, the Finance Minister, said yesterday that Hanwa's failure ought not to cause anxiety about the stability of Japan's financial system overall. He said the bank's operations would be shifted to a new bank for the purpose of winding up Hanwa's business using the deposit insurance system.

Pennington, page 29

Insurers fear ruling on fidelity policies

BY JON ASHWORTH

INSURERS have reacted with alarm to an appeal court ruling that threatens to increase dramatically the sums payable under fidelity policies - those which protect against alleged fraud and dishonesty at companies. The ruling, stemming from the collapse of the late Robert Maxwell's media empire, could lead to insurers paying out to the policy limit for each of a company's subsidiaries, instead of being restricted to one claim. Insurers have been urged to study policy terms. The alleged plundering of company pension funds featured strongly in the case of New Hampshire Insurance and

others vs Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC), which turned on fidelity insurance taken out by the company. The appeal court ruling raises the possibility that insurers could be liable for multiple limits of indemnity. It is possible that multiple limits of indemnity may be triggered in cases where policies have been incorrectly worded, or where more than one of the insured has suffered loss. Alan Fisher, partner in the insurance industry group at Dibb Lupton Alsop, said: "This shows that insurers are vulnerable to multiple liability. There is a costly lesson unfolding in front of their eyes, saying 'get the documents right'."

Bates bemoans penalty for sparing Hoddle pitch

BY JASON NISSE

GLENN HODDLE, the England football manager, insisted on changes to the redevelopment of Chelsea Football Club's Stamford Bridge ground that cost its parent company, Chelsea Village, at least £15 million, Ken Bates, chairman of Chelsea, said yesterday. Mr Bates told Chelsea Village's annual meeting that plans to redevelop Stamford Bridge's south and west stands involved reducing the width of the pitch to the minimum allowed by international football regulations. "Our then manager, Mr Hoddle objected, saying it was not in keeping with the style of play he wanted or

whatever," Mr Bates said, adding that the changes to the plans caused by the extra five metres added to the pitch cost between £15 million and £20 million. Mr Bates said that Mr Hoddle had since left to manage "some other team", meaning England, "which all goes to show you should not make decisions on short-term considerations". The Stamford Bridge redevelopment is to cost £60 million. Around £30 million of this is still to be raised; Mr Bates said that he had been approached by a number of investors. Chelsea is building a 160-room hotel, 34 flats, a banqueting suite, shops and offices. "It will be the most overcrowded 12 acres in the world," said Mr Bates.

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24 Nov 1996

Manufacturing is on the mend, says CBI

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S manufacturers are continuing to recover as company order books return to normal, new evidence from the Confederation of British Industry suggests today.

With manufacturing continuing to underperform the rest of the economy, the improvement recorded by the CBI will please ministers in advance of Tuesday's Budget.

In its latest monthly trends survey, the CBI shows that 24 per cent of the 1,100 manufactur-

ing companies examined say that their order books are above normal, and the same proportion below normal — a net balance between the two of zero per cent.

However, flat orders mark a recovery in manufacturing, the survey suggests, after negative net balances of minus 9 per cent in the previous two monthly surveys, and bigger negative figures before that. Overall, the latest figure is the most positive recorded by the CBI since August last year.

However, export orders remain weak, with a net -5 per cent of firms reporting orders to be

below normal. Although this is a slight improvement on the previous figures of -7 and -11 per cent, CBI leaders are sceptical about the total, since the recent strengthening of sterling is likely to worsen the position of exporters.

Price expectations are continuing to increase as manufacturing recovery improves, sending some warning signals about inflation. Manufacturers expect domestic prices to rise over the next four months, with a net balance of 8 per cent of firms suggesting that average prices will rise.

Firms' expectations on prices have risen since September after a downward trend in the first

half of this year, but CBI economists suggest that seasonal factors may be coming into play.

A net 21 per cent of firms forecast increased output, confirming a more positive trend in expectations since mid-year.

□ The CBI yesterday set out ideas aimed at ensuring that London is Europe's "most successful city" by 2020, including increasing manufacturing's contribution to the capital's economy from 13 per cent to 20 per cent. Anthony Fuller, CBI London region chairman, said: "This new report sets the aim of making London the global centre of wealth creation."

Ibstock replaces Hopkins

IBSTOCK, the brick manufacturer that last week replaced its chief executive, yesterday removed Anthony Hopkins after two months as head of Ibstock Building Products.

Philip Mengel, who has taken over from Ian Maclellan as Ibstock's chief executive, will now assume Mr Hopkins's responsibilities.

An Ibstock spokesman said that Mr Hopkins "felt his position was untenable". Mr Mengel, 52, described the reason for Mr Hopkins' departure as "just a policy difference over the role of the chief executive... there was a demarcation dispute".

They are understood to have disagreed over who should oversee the Redland-Tarmac integration, which will involve restructurings and redundancies.

FirstBus home

FirstBus has been selected as the preferred bidder for the Great Eastern Railways passenger rail franchise. It was announced to the Stock Exchange last night. John O'Brien, the Franchising Director, is expected to make a formal announcement next month, followed by a handover of the service early in the new year. FirstBus beat a bid from National Express. The service out of Liverpool Street Station is seen to have long-term stable prospects because 70 per cent of the passengers hold season tickets.

TV agreement

United News & Media has emerged as the winner for Westcountry Television, the ITV company in Devon and Cornwall. It is believed to have agreed to buy Westcountry for about £80 million from the owners, the Daily Mail & General Trust, Britany Ferries and Southwest Water, in a deal that will give it near blanket coverage of the ITV market in the far South West.

Storehouse rings up a surprise at halfway

By Claire Stewart

BOOMING overseas franchise sales and a stronger contribution from British Home Stores helped Storehouse, the retail group, to better-than-expected results for the first half.

Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent to £37.5 million on turnover ahead by 14 per cent to £90.5 million.

Keith Edelman, group chief executive, said that it had been "a successful first half, with excellent progress in each sector". Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 6.1p before exceptional items, while the interim dividend was increased 10 per cent to 3.3p.

A key feature of the first six months was the acquisition of the Childrens World group, from Boots in May. Exceptional costs in the first half included £16.4 million arising from the integration of the chain.

Childrens World contributed sales of £45.7 million, which were up 6 per cent on a comparable period last year, and operating profits of £1.1 million.

Storehouse has now opened four of the new style out-of-town Mothercare World stores, with rebranding of the Childrens World stores due to begin in early 1997.

Including Childrens World, operating profits at Mothercare rose 19 per cent to £11.1 million. Like-for-like sales fell by 2 per cent, affected by lower sales of childrens wear. Mr Edelman said the sales figures nonetheless showed an improvement on the previous quarter.

The overall 5 per cent increase in Mothercare turnover came entirely from the increased sales to the franchised Mothercare outlets overseas.

At Bhs, like-for-like sales rose 3 per cent, with the contribution from new outlets and overseas sales lifting the total sales increase to 7 per cent. Operating profit rose 21 per cent to £25.1 million.

All divisions improved sales, with menswear and home products leading the way. The group has continued trials of its "millennium design" which it says has lifted



Keith Edelman, chief executive, was in a festive mood after a successful first half

sales and will be introduced to all new Bhs stores.

Total franchise sales in the first half rose by 38 per cent to £47 million, accounting for 8 per cent of group turnover. New Mothercare and Bhs franchises outlets were opened in new markets such as Russia, Israel and Lebanon

and by the year end the total number of shops is expected to reach 300. Four more Bhs stores are due to open in the second half together with four Mothercare outlets and two Mothercare World sites. Capital expenditure for the year is estimated at £110 million.

UK gross margins in-

creased in both Bhs and Mothercare. Across the group margins slipped, reflecting the impact of lower-margin sales at Childrens World and sales to franchise outlets at whole-sale prices.

Analysts are forecasting full year profits of £126 million, and a dividend of 8.3p.

Price deal by Energy to ensure stability

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear generator, has struck a deal with Southern Electric for energy supplies stretching over 15 years. The move will ensure price stability for more than 15 per cent of its output, and is designed primarily to shield the generator from fluctuating electricity prices.

Announcing a drop in pre-tax losses for the half year yesterday, British Energy gave warning that the price of electricity was likely to fall. As British Energy operates in an area of power production that is unable to set prices, it is vulnerable to price fluctuations. It can protect itself by hedging contracts but such devices prevented the company from enjoying the benefits of the unexpectedly high trading price of electricity in recent months.

British Energy faces further uncertainty if there is a change of government, with Labour saying the privileged status of nuclear in the electricity industry — that it is the last form of generation to be called off the system — could be reviewed. But Bob Hawley, chief executive, dismissed it as technically unworkable.

In the past six months the company suffered a £26 million cost in lost revenue and repairs from problems with the two reactors shut down amid a storm of controversy days before privatisation of the company, and hours after individual investors had submitted their applications.

But British Energy said it was on course to make a profit in its full financial year. In the six months to September 30 it lost £53 million, compared with a profit loss of £169 million for the same period last year. Output rose 12 per cent after improvements in production efficiency at its power stations.

But the company, which last month announced 1,400 job losses, gave a warning that future improvements in capacity at its generators could only be modest.

An interim dividend of 4.6p is payable on January 28.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

London 'will remain major finance centre'

LONDON will retain its position as one of the three major global financial centres, regardless of whether Britain joins the European Monetary Union (EMU), according to a senior Bank of England director. John Townsend, deputy director of the Bank, told a City & Financial conference in London yesterday: "London's particular strengths, which have proved attractive over the years, remain in place quite unaffected by EMU — the English language, the convenient time zone, availability in abundance of relevant trading and banking skills, the unbureaucratic regulatory framework, the technological infrastructure, and the critical mass of so diverse a range of markets and financial and ancillary services available in one place."

Mr Townsend's speech on London's position in the global trading cycle regardless of the EMU follows one earlier this week by Ian Plenderleith, fellow director of the Bank of England, on the same subject.

Merry Glenmorangie

GEOFFREY MADDELL, chairman of Glenmorangie, yesterday predicted the whisky company would enjoy a happy Christmas and said that there were signs of improved price stability in the drinks market. Mr Maddell's positive comments helped Glenmorangie 'A' shares to rise 5p to a closing all-time high of 815p. There was a 7 per cent increase in half year pre-tax profits to £4.3 million. Overall turnover rose 26 per cent to £23 million. The 'A' share and 'B' share interim dividends were increased by 10 per cent to 3.025p and 1.513p respectively, payable on January 15, 1997.

NSM warns of loss

SHARES of NSM plunged from 42½ p to a five-year low of 23p yesterday, as the mining company gave warning that interest on its spiralling debt would force it to return a halfway loss. The company, profitable for the last three years, is to sell its US operations to combat the \$95 million debt but expects to receive substantially less than asset value. John Jermaine, chairman, said trading should pick up substantially next year as its deep mine in South Wales reaches full capacity. After the US disposals NSM will be left with its principal deep mine in South Wales and another 12 open cast mines.

DBS profit soars 109%

DBS Management, the financial and business services group based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, has announced half-year pre-tax profits up 109 per cent, to £2.7 million, with turnover up 59 per cent, to £53.8 million. The interim dividend has been increased 71 per cent, to 6p per share, while earnings per share have jumped 74 per cent to 22.5p. DBS shares, which are quoted on AIM, rose 40p to 495p in response to the news. Martin Greenwood, chief executive, said that the company hoped to be able to seek a full stock market quotation before the end of its financial year on March 31.

Royal plea for help

THE PRINCE OF WALES yesterday urged the business community to give its backing to the new Gifts in Kind charity and "make a big difference to people's lives". The new venture will act as a clearing house through which donations in kind, rather than in cash, can be matched to the most suitable charity. The charity has already received £177,000 from the National Lottery and has signed up the support of Lloyds TSB Group, which provides office space for the charity; Disney Stores; TNT, the transport group; Hewlett Packard; and IBM.

Macdonald Hotels up

MACDONALD HOTELS said yesterday that it was looking forward with confidence as the company unveiled a two-thirds increase in half-year profits before tax to £4.6 million. The company added five hotels during the first part of the year, increasing its rooms to 1,420 in 22 hotels. Overall, turnover increased 25 per cent to £19.2 million. The hotel division increased profits, excluding exceptional items, 15 per cent to £4.5 million. A maiden interim dividend of 1.5p is payable on January 9.

Car Group worth £43m

THE CAR GROUP, bought by its management for £25 million in March, will be valued at £43 million when it joins the stock exchange next Thursday. The company has raised £14.5 million from the flotation, which it will use to buy out its original backers. The flotation will make Martyn Doherty, its managing director, a paper millionaire by valuing his stake at £2.6 million. Richard Farr, chairman, and Peter King, chief executive, will also share a stake worth £4.95 million. Charterhouse Tilney is placing 15 million shares at 138p each.

Lowndes Lambert slips

LOWNDES LAMBERT GROUP, the international insurance broker, said worldwide rates had continued to fall or remain flat as it unveiled a £1 million fall in interim pre-tax profits to £5 million. Although markets in the UK, United States, Europe and other overseas divisions had been tough, the group was maintaining its interim at 2.9. Group turnover was up 11 per cent to £40.4 million (£36.4 million) and the interim results included the cost of restructuring, some job losses, the introduction of new technology and acquisitions.

Robert Wiseman ahead

ROBERT WISEMAN DAIRIES yesterday said that it is under tough pricing pressure from its supermarket customers as it reported a rise in first-half pre-tax profits, from £4.6 million to £6.1 million. The company has increased the interim dividend from 1p to 1.15p out of earnings up from 4.47p to 5.47p. Alan Wiseman, the chairman, said: "We have experienced increased margin pressure in the second half year, in particular, as a result of weak bulk cream prices and the ever competitive multiple retailer sector."

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Cellphones

Morgan unit trusts to be run from Germany

By Robert Miller and Caroline Merrell

DELTSCHER BANK, the German owner of Morgan Grenfell, delivered a humiliating blow to its London unit trust arm yesterday when it announced that it was transferring the supervisory role of the UK unit trust company to Frankfurt.

On September 1 Morgan Grenfell was forced to suspend dealings in three of its European unit trusts after alleged irregularities were uncovered by Imro, the watchdog for fund managers.

Peter Young, manager of two of the funds, was suspended from his duties at Morgan Grenfell and subsequently sacked. He is now the subject of an investigation

by the Serious Fraud Office. Deutsche Bank was forced to inject about £180 million into the three trusts before trading in units resumed. Last month, seven senior Morgan Grenfell executives, including Keith Percy, the chief executive, left the company.

The German bank had already hinted that it would shift the supervisory role of the unit trusts, but not the cash or day-to-day management, to head office.

Morgan Grenfell in London and Imro its regulator had no advance warning of yesterday's announcement, however, and both expressed surprise, and in the case of the watchdog "considerable concern".

Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, said: "Any physical separation of related management or compliance functions is not ideal. In some circumstances it may not be acceptable. We have yet to receive any request from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell on this matter."

Investors with a total of £1.1 billion in three unit trusts have yet to hear any details of the compensation they could be offered.

Deutsche Bank has pledged to compensate for any "losses resulting from irregularities". It has said it will treat those remaining invested with Morgan Grenfell in the same way as those who sold after the problems were uncovered.

Lloyds TSB property auction raises £40 million

Bankable assets sell on the nod

By Martin Baker

THE charming man behind the gilded podium in the ballroom of the Hyde Park Hotel coaxed one of the 300-or-so investors present: "Just nod, sir. It's easier than shaking your head." And seconds later the TSB in Taunton town centre was knocked down to a happy buyer for a cool £12.2 million — on the nod.

The sale of 108 branches of the Lloyds Bank TSB network yesterday was, according to John Townsend of Healey & Baker, the auctioneer, "the largest lot sale of property in Britain". It also attracted investors from Germany, the United States and Republic of Ireland, who helped to spend just over £40 million on 19 sites in Scotland, and others spread

around Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and the South West.

The freehold and long leasehold properties went with a guarantee of 15 years' income. The Lloyds Bank leases guarantee investors that the bank will stay put for at least that term, while the TSB leases allow for some sub-letting but guarantee that the TSB will remain responsible for the rent. Prices typically started out at a multiple of ten times the annual income, with the more expensive properties offering a better yield.

The TSB in Fore Street, Taunton, currently provides an income of £120,000. But the next lot, a Lloyds Bank branch in Retford, Nottinghamshire, offered a more modest 8.75 per cent yield of £35,000 for a purchase price of £400,000.

Given the attractive yields on offer, investment analysts might wonder what Lloyds TSB knows that the rest of the world does not. Why diminish exposure to a sought-after property market? The answer, according to a Lloyds/TSB spokesman is cashflow. "By selling the properties we simply free up our capital." But that still begs the question of what will be done with the money.

One thing seems certain, however. If there are similar sales, investor interest is likely to intensify. When asked in the hotel cloakroom whether she had got what she came for, a fur-coated woman insisted that she had come only to observe as representative of German private investors. If there were another auction, would she return? She nodded.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.17	2.21
Austria Sch	13.07	13.07
Belgium F	54.71	50.31
Canada C	0.732	0.732
Cyprus Cyp	0.737	0.742
Denmark Kr	10.28	9.42
France F	6.15	5.70
Germany M	8.90	8.25
Greece Dr	2.67	2.46
Hong Kong S	412	412
Italy Lira	13.90	12.83
Japan Yen	115	95
Netherlands G	1.05	1.05
Portugal Esc	5.74	5.09
Spain Ptas	201.50	185.50
Sweden Kr	6.92	6.57
Switzerland S	2.98	2.78
Taiwan NT	2.50	2.38
UK £	1.13	1.03
USA \$	265.00	248.20
Yugoslavia D	217.50	204.50
Switzerland S	11.71	10.91
USA \$	172000	169000
USA \$	1.776	1.776

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□ Questions for Rothschild from the PAC □ Tokyo lets Hanwa sink □ Customer protest unlikely to shake society

Miner earthquake, public loses out

ON a Richter Scale of government mishandling of public assets, the findings of the Public Accounts Committee into the sale last year of British Coal probably rate about a three — a minor tremor, a few shaken reputations but no structural damage.

The main concern relates to NM Rothschild, the bank that cornered the market in privatisation work on behalf of the Government. A side issue was the involvement of Richard Budge, the eventual buyer of large chunks of British Coal, in an inquiry into the financial affairs of his brother, which was not notified to those selling the coal industry. As Mr Budge was cleared of any wrongdoing, this is more a failure of communication between officials than anything more sinister.

As to Rothschild's, the valuations the bank provided for Britain's coal industry proved hopelessly short of the mark. The bank was first appointed to look at coal in 1991. At the time Lord Wakeham was Secretary of State for Energy, and paved the way for the sell-off of the coal industry, not least through overseeing the earlier privatisation of the electricity industry.

Lord Wakeham trundled off to the House of Lords in 1992,

leaving the Government entirely in July 1994. Just six months later he popped up as non-executive director at Rothschild's, a part-time job that delivers pocket money of £50,000. His appointment led to calls for rules to stem the flow of ex-ministers into jobs with companies that they helped privatise.

The bank was criticised by the committee for the value it put on Britain's coalmines, some of which went on to deliver wondrously high profits for Mr Budge and the £2.5 million success bonus paid based on some criteria which Rothschild had already achieved — easy money, in other words.

British Coal, like virtually every other privatisation, was sold off too cheaply. The trouble with valuations like the one provided by Rothschild is that they tend to set a guide price on assets, rather than making the buyer do the work. The cosy links between Government and City are unavoidable, as the rules are at present. Lord

Wakeham would hardly have gone to such a prestigious bank had he been in charge of the arts or tourism. He was allowed to go, and they wanted him there.

Lucky Richard Budge. We have all wondered at the unexpected success of RJB, and now we need wonder no more. He was sold the business too cheap. Again, no blame attaches to him. The real blame attaches to those unnamed officials at the Department of Trade and Industry who allowed themselves to be legged over by the City. Again.

Japan breaks the bank

THERE is an old joke on Japan's monolithic politics that has the American occupying forces explaining that a mature liberal democracy is two-sided, with a government and an opposition. The Japanese go away and create just such a system — and so it remains for decades, the same government



and the same opposition. The financial world in Japan, also drawn up by the Americans along American lines, was similarly ossified — hence the need for a Japanese Big Bang to prevent further loss of market share to other, less-regulated Asian exchanges, such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Less regulation means more risk, and this requires the odd business to founder. The decision to cut loose a small regional bank in Osaka, rather than rallying round other banks to provide buoyancy until the business floated back to the surface of its own accord, is a further move in

the direction of bringing Japanese financial services into line with the rest of the world.

If the Ministry of Finance goes through with its stated intention to allow Hanwa Bank of Osaka to go under, this should strengthen most of the remaining players in Japan's financial system and boost the credibility of the authorities. Only most, though; some analysts are convinced that the new policy will mean a third of Japanese financial institutions will cease to exist in their current form.

Under plans put in place in the spring, all deposits at financial institutions will be protected for a period of five years, until 2001 when the Big Bang is due to hit, during which time the aim is to encourage the principle of self-responsibility and expand the disclosure of information.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was in Japan 11 months ago, oddly enough. He told banks there that a stainless steel safety net designed to save all who suffer would merely

encourage higher and higher-risk strategies by institutions that were guaranteed not to fail no matter how daft their actions, until the rescue costs became too high and the system collapsed. The Japanese have now been forced to heed his advice.

All over at A&L bar withdrawals

MY brief note last week likening those customers of the Alliance & Leicester unhappy with the bonuses coming with conversion to ungrateful paupers squabbling over charity hand-outs has prompted a response from readers quite out of proportion to its length. The issue has aroused an unexpected degree of passion.

The rebel customers are threatening to withdraw £100 million in protest. As the society has assets of more than £23 billion, this is not going to make the pillars of this particular temple crumble. There is some-

thing deeply unifying about already wealthy people resorting to such tactics in return for a bob or two more. But let us try to look at the matter dispassionately.

A&L customers are indeed its ultimate owners, just as shareholders own the company. The parallel ends there. Each share, by law, carries the same rights: the more shares, the greater the control. The same does not apply to each pound invested in society accounts, any more than customers in a clearing bank have rights that increase along with their bank balances.

Second, the bonuses on conversion are not a "return" on an "investment" — this comes in the form of interest paid on those balances. They are designed to compensate members for the loss of mutual status. As this is indivisible, a sliding scale of compensation is only applicable when this system benefits the majority of members. This does not apply in the A&L's case; instead, because of the large number of small investors, an equal payout to all is the more utilitarian approach.

It seems clear that a sufficient majority of A&L customers have already voted in favour of the terms on offer. That would seem to settle the matter.

Glaxo buys full control of Japanese joint venture

By ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOME put itself in position yesterday to attack the Japanese pharmaceuticals market on its own by taking full control of its biggest Japanese joint venture for about £361 million.

The deal marks the end of more than four decades of collaboration with the Konishi family, which owned half of Nippon Glaxo, the joint venture. Glaxo had been trying to buy the Konishi stake for some time because of the family's apparent resistance to make significant investments in the business, analysts said.

Glaxo would not comment on its relationship with the Konishis, but said that owning 100 per cent of Nippon Glaxo

would provide it with a "platform for growth" in the world's second-largest pharmaceuticals market. Glaxo has been criticised for its inability to raise its market share in Japan beyond about 2 per cent, which is less than half of its global market share.

Nippon Glaxo has a broad range of research and development, manufacturing and distribution operations. Most of the older drugs in its portfolio, including Zantac, the ulcer treatment, are sold through the joint venture. But many new drugs, such as Imigran, a migraine medicine, have not been approved yet for Japanese use. Nippon Glaxo reported after-tax profits of £15.6 million



Sykes ending collaboration

in the half year to June 30 and had net assets of £180 million. Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo chief executive, wants to merge Nippon Glaxo with

Nippon Wellcome, its other joint venture in Japan, which it inherited last year after taking over Wellcome. Nippon Wellcome is 55 per cent owned by Glaxo and 45 per cent by Sumitomo. Before merging the joint ventures, Glaxo must decide whether it wants to keep Sumitomo as a partner or find another candidate.

Merging the two ventures would create a company with some £700 million in annual sales, equivalent to 9 per cent of Glaxo's total turnover. Its long-term goal is to double its Japanese market share. Glaxo said the purchase of the Nippon Glaxo stake would be financed through borrowings and be earnings enhancing.

Tempus, page 30

Sears likely to seek buyer for Freemans

SPECULATION was growing yesterday that Sears, the troubled stores group run by Liam Strong, is looking to sell its Freemans catalogue business (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Continental catalogue companies such as Otto Versand of Germany and Pinault Printemps Redoute of France are thought the most likely bidders. Analysts say the company would probably fetch around £400 million. Otto Versand, a private company, owns the Graziat catalogue business, while PPR owns Emporio.

Other possible bidders for Freemans are thought to include N Brown, the small but very successful catalogue group, as well as Littlewoods and Burton.

Morgan Crucible to float Emblem

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the specialist engineering group, yesterday confirmed that it is to spin-off its aerospace, sensors and instruments division in a float likely to value the business at £40 million.

The move to float the recently formed Emblem division reflects Morgan's strategy of focusing on its core materials technology activity.

Proceeds of the float will be used further to reduce Morgan's debt pile: the City believes that the company will soon launch a major acquisition drive to expand its industrial ceramics division.

Emblem operates two divisions, which have manufacturing facilities in the UK and the US. The aerospace division, representing 62 per cent

of its turnover, produces aircraft weapons systems, scanning motors and the cord reels and integrated handset cradles used by airlines' in-flight entertainment systems. The sensors and instruments division specialises in electro-optic sensors for civil and medical uses, nuclear reactor detectors and Geiger counters.

Emblem last year produced operating profits, excluding management charges and exceptional items, of £4.3 million on turnover of £26 million. It forecasts profits, excluding management charges and exceptional items, of £5.1 million for the year to January 4 1997. The existing management will remain after the float.

Tempus, page 30

Waddington jumps 36% at half time

STABILITY in paper and plastic markets stoked profits growth at Waddington, the printing and packaging group, as it returned pre-tax profits of £15.5 million, a 36 per cent gain in the six months to September 28 (Fraser Nelson writes).

As the group's £40 million capital expenditure programme got under way, sales grew 18 per cent to £156 million. Earnings jumped from 7.9p to 10.54p per share, and an interim dividend is 10 per cent higher, at 4.4p, due on January 17. The pharmaceutical packaging division returned operating profits 59 per cent ahead at £3.43 million. The shares rose 54p to 264p.

BRITAIN'S INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS THE ECONOMY

Technology has always been at the heart of the aerospace industry, and the Airbus family of airliners is no exception.

In just 25 years a wide range of sophisticated airliners has been developed, each successive model involving the steady application of modern technology.

As a result, Europe's Airbus partnership, of which British Aerospace is an important member, has grown from nothing to being one of the world's two leading aircraft manufacturers, and has captured over a third of the entire market for large civil airliners. Over 2,000 Airbus aircraft have been sold to airlines around the globe.

This success story has created a whole industry. In Britain, the Airbus programmes actively support 25,000 jobs in over 300 companies, and contribute £1 billion a year to the trade balance. These high-value-added, wealth creating aircraft programmes account for more than 1.5 percent of Britain's total manufacturing sales abroad.

Britain is reaping the rewards from investing in research over the years. Through a close partnership between government and industry, continuing development of our expertise in technology will enable Airbus to build further on today's success, multiplying the handsome dividends the programmes are paying to the economy and to jobs in the UK.

AIRBUS. A GREAT BRITISH SUCCESS THE WORLD OVER

BRITISH AEROSPACE

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Investors show caution as Budget approaches

INVESTORS and traders have begun batten down the hatches as Tuesday's Budget speech by the Chancellor approaches.

Another strong performance by the pound, which soared to a four-year high against the dollar, and further gains on the bond market kept losses in the equity market to a minimum. The FT-SE 100 index, down almost 10 points earlier in the session, finished 9 down at 3,955.80 in the face of further profit-taking on Wall Street after this week's record-breaking run by the Dow Jones industrial average.

Retail demand also showed signs of slowing down and this was reflected in turnover where the total number of shares traded reached just 746.5 million.

Among leaders, British Gas suffered a correction after its recent speculative run. The price dropped 0.5p to 222p with still no sign of the bid from Shell, 10p lower at 815p. Instead, investors are focusing again on costly supply contracts with producers and disagreements with the regulator. By the close, 17 million shares had changed hands.

Guinness floated to the top with a rise of 0.4p to 461p as Cazenove, the broker, urged clients to switch out of Grand Metropolitan, down 3.5p at 461p. Some bullish comments from Credit Suisse First Boston left Cable and Wireless 5.5p cheaper at 476p after figures on Wednesday. London International, the condom maker, rose 3.5p to 158p on the back of a "buy" recommendation from HSBC. James Capel, the broker, BZW also rates the shares a buy and says shareholders are unlikely to be disappointed with the group's performance. It expects pre-tax profits to grow 46 per cent to £5.5 million.

There were few surprises in maiden figures from British Energy, which was floated this year. The shares slipped 1p to 134.5p. The group also confirmed it was linking up with Southern Electric, 2p lighter at 696.5p, to obtain long-term supplies of electricity at a fixed price.

This served to focus the spotlight on the power generators, with National Power bouncing back after the lukewarm reception given its figures on Wednesday. It finished the session 17p better at 452p after some further words of encouragement from Nat-

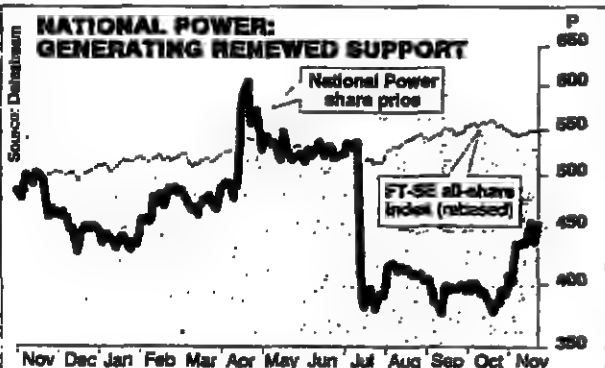


Sir Alistair Grant announced higher profits at Safeway

West Securities. But it still stands some way below the high for the year of 605p. PowerGen rose 10p to 588p. A warning about a further doubling of margins left Safeway 1.5p easier at 369.5p. It came as the group announced an increase in pre-tax profits up from £213.7 million to £228.2 million. Brokers came back from a post-results

Bargain hunters came to the rescue of Thorn which has slumped to a low of 293.5p since the demerger. Mercury Asset Management has picked up three million shares in the past few weeks, lifting its stake to 15.5 per cent. Almost four million shares were traded yesterday as the price closed 6p higher at 299.5p.

meeting at the company in a bullish mood, with SBC Warburg and Merrill Lynch both said to be buyers. Better than expected half-year profits from Storehouse went down well with the City and pushed the shares up 6p to 275p. After a disappointing first quarter, things are picking up, with emphasis on Children's World, which it bought from Boots.



NATIONAL POWER: GENERATING RENEWED SUPPORT

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

ture after the disposal of its US operations which are up for sale.

The business is likely to be sold at a discount to book value. Brokers say Ryan Mining in South Wales, which it bought earlier this year, had failed to reach the expected production levels.

But Stordata Solutions held steady at 9p after it said that profits this year would be hit by closure costs. Laserline, its vehicle security products arm, will not achieve the sort of profitability the market had been looking for.

Gleamorama, the whisky distiller, is looking forward to a merry Christmas that should produce buoyant sales. There are also signs that prices in the industry are stabilising. In the first six months pre-tax profits grew 7 per cent to £4.3 million. The 'A' shares jumped 5p to 815p and the 'B' 5p to £10.25.

Shares of Houseysack Group, the fashion group, fared from suspending 5p lower at 35p after reporting losses last year, a cut in the dividend and the appointment of Jeremy Hamer as chairman. Michael Jackson's Elderstreet Investments is set to buy a 33.3 per cent stake in the company. They eventually closed 12.5p cheaper at 27.5p.

Mersey Docks and Harbours Company rose 4p to 386p after announcing plans to halt its Eurolink ferry services from Sherness to Vlissingen on December 1. Instead, rival Jacobs Holdings, 1.5p firmer at 73p, will operate its Dart Line service from Dartford to Vlissingen for customers on Eurolink.

Jacobs is currently bidding for Romax, unchanged at 118p. GILT-EDGED: Prices gathered pace after a cautious start on the back of that firmer pound which surged to a four-year high against the dollar. It enabled London to outperform other European bond markets.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt closed near its best of the day with a rise of 0.1p to £101.16 as a total of 61,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 jumped 0.1p to £103.16, while among shorter-dated coupons, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks better at £103.3p.

NEW YORK: Profit-taking was limited as the Dow Jones industrial average fell 24.97 points in morning trading to stand at 6,405.05 at midday.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 6,405.05 (-24.97) S&P Composite 741.96 (-1.99)

Tokyo: Nikkei average 21,143.34 (-46.63) Hang Seng 10,995.56 (-67.68)

Amsterdam: EOE index 608.24 (-1.68) Sydney: AO 2,992.5 (-0.2)

Frankfurt: DAX 2,772.34 (-2.16) Singapore: Straits 2,197.69 (-4.11)

Brussels: General 1,030.79 (-27.46) Paris: CAC-40 2,233.97 (+0.18)

Zurich: S&K Gen 817.80 (-4.38) London: FT 30 2,775.0 (-4.9)

FT 100 2,963.8 (-4.4) FTSE Mid 250 4,397.0 (-3.2)

FTSE 250 4,704.4 (-1.38) FTSE Europe 100 1,827.0 (-1.57)

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TEMPUS
Safe and sound

WITH interim profits bang in line with City expectations yesterday along with predictable sales growth, Safeway runs the risk of looking a bit worthy and dull. Investors are accustomed to disasters and crises in the food retailing sector.

The perception is probably unfair. Safeway has at least been innovative and has adopted some smart marketing gimmicks. The ABC loyalty card provides a more data on customers' buying habits than other such cards. More important, it has avoided the worst of the price skirmishes to which its competitors have become addicted.

Self-scanning and self-payment systems, which allow customers to avoid queuing at tills (the worst of the weekly shopping chore for most customers) have begun to prove themselves and will be installed at more sites.

Looking further forward, its joint venture with BP, developing petrol forecourt convenience stores, offers growth in the medium term. Meanwhile, petrol price margins have begun to move in a positive direction after a year-long squeeze.

Positive developments have fed through to the share price, but the stock is still at a discount to J Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda. That suggests there is some upside in Safeway, but investors should question the sector's virtues before piling in.

In the retailing sector, the grocers are now a defensive play. They should benefit from the consumer upturn, but at a slower rate than those stores selling big-ticket fashion or electronic goods which are due for further strong growth.

Babcock

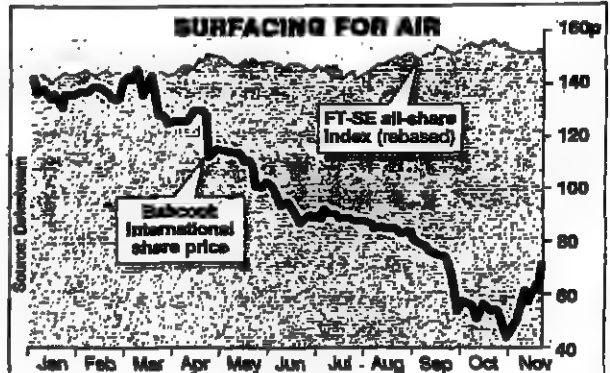
ONLY a few months ago, some were predicting a disastrous set of interim losses at Babcock, but this company continually surprises. Even after a nasty £6 million of aggregated losses from process engineering, environmental and its African businesses, the company produced a solid £2 million profit. With that level of underlying support and a commitment to improve margins further from materials handling, the way forward must be up.

The key to the future must be the imminent takeover of Rosyth. Thanks to the Government's decision to conduct a do-it-yourself disposal, the negotiation has dragged on for 18 months. Nevertheless, delay seems to have worked at least partly in Babcock's favour. Whether the other

bidders gave up in bored frustration or because submarine maintenance is too complex a business, Babcock may have secured a potential gold mine for what looks like £25 million.

Babcock has been running Rosyth under contract for some time and managed to make £7.5 million from its rolling stock maintenance

business and the dockyard. With five years of guaranteed income from nuclear submarine and warship maintenance, profits of £7.5 million could double. Add to that better margins at materials handling and break-even at process engineering and Babcock's profits could well exceed £20 million in a couple of years.



SURFACING FOR AIR

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Glaxo Wellcome

JAPAN has always been a sore spot for Glaxo Wellcome. The group has roughly 5 per cent of the global pharmaceuticals market, but has never been able to capture more than 2 per cent of the Japanese market. The world's second largest, in spite of its presence there since the mid-1950s.

Glaxo has shelved some of the blame on the apparent unwillingness of its Japanese partner to spend the considerable amounts of money needed to open doors in this notoriously closed market. So Glaxo has decided - pretty much to go it alone. It has bought its partner's half share in Nippon Glaxo, and intends to merge it with Nippon Wellcome, the smaller Japanese joint venture that it inherited with the acquisition of Wellcome last year.

The question is whether Glaxo's domination of its Japanese business will sit well with drug buyers. Bus-

Morgan Crucible

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the specialist engineering company, surprised few observers yesterday with the news that it was ditching its hotchpotch of an aerospace and instruments division.

The company is on record as saying it wants to focus more on its industrial ceramics and specialist chemicals businesses. The £40 million raised through a float of Emblen is slightly more than could be raised via a trade sale and this will further bolster the company's strong financial position. Half-year debt stood at £131 million.

which represents gearing of about 42 per cent - hardly excessive for a company when its earnings are growing in double digits.

The City has been anticipating that Morgan is preparing itself for a significant purchase, probably an addition to its industrial ceramics business. But the company remains more circumspect on its buying policies and although a failure to land a big deal may cause some disappointment, the company has a strong track record in achieving growth through bolt-ons and internal investment.

Morgan has increased margins from 10 to 12.5 per cent in the past few years, but with lower-margin businesses being discarded the company should have room to drive profits further. The company sits on a comfortable rating of about 16 times price-earnings, offering good medium-term prospects.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec 118.00/114

Mar 118.00/114

May 118.00/114

Jul 118.00/114

Sep 118.00/114

Nov 118.00/114

Dec 118.00/114

Jan 118.00/114

Mar 118.00/114

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FTSE 100

Dec 3,955.80

Mar 3,955.80

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Dec 3,955.80

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DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.2320-1.2320

Belgium 1.0550-1.0550

Canada 0.7050-0.7050

Denmark 6.4600-6.4600

France 6.5500-6.5500

Germany 1.3360-1.3360

Italy 1.3600-1.3600

Japan 163.20-163.20

Netherlands 2.2060-2.2060

Spain 166.36-166.36

Sweden 8.4600-8.4600

Switzerland 1.4875-1.4875

UK 1.0000-1.0000

US 1.0000-1.0000

West Germany 1.3360-1.3360

Yen 163.20-163.20

Zimbabwe 1.0000-1.0000

Other 1.0000-1.0000

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

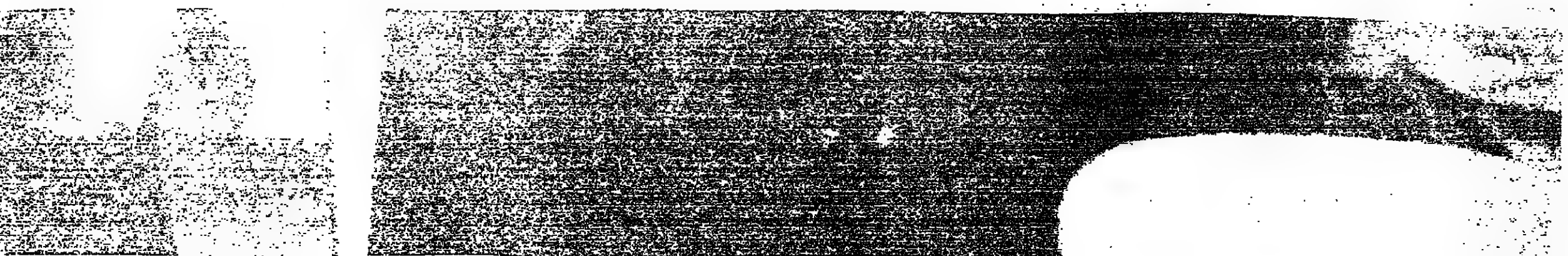
[illegible]

Source: FT Information

© U.S. & Price of common stock: Ex-dividend, & Ex stock
A. Ex rights issue, & Ex alt. & Ex capital distribution
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Tony Sutton presents a two-page special report on the regeneration of a once great city that is fighting to regain its former glory

Shipshape and back in fashion

Grants triggering more than £400 million worth of development in Bristol's city centre are expected to be announced today when Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, visits the area. English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration body, is to provide £35 million to fund the infrastructure for Bristol's key strategic sites — the former 66-acre Bristol Docks, now called Harbourside, and the 23-acre Temple Quay near Bristol's main railway station.

Schemes for these sites will transform the centre of Bristol.

At Harbourside, work on an £82 million science and leisure complex — featuring what is described as the UK's first electronic zoo — will start in the new year. Expectations are high that the £98 million Centre for the Performing Arts will succeed in its £75 million bid for funding from the National Arts Council. This will aim to be the premier arts facility for the West of England. The science and leisure elements, Wildscreen World and Science World, have just been granted £41 million of National Lottery money from the Millennium Commission.

The other site, Temple Quay, is planned to become Bristol's headquarters office sector, linking the railway station with Broadmead, the city's main shopping area.

These developments represent a turnaround in Bristol's fortunes. For years there have been schemes for the regeneration of the historic harbour area. Until now, all have foundered. It has taken a huge change in attitudes by the public and private sectors, an improving economy and public funding to get the city moving again. Both sectors now realise they need each other and have built close working relationships through partnership boards and companies.

Big companies such as Sun Life have relocated to north Bristol close to the M4-M5 corridor. John Lewis, Bristol's largest department store, is leaving Broadmead, the main shopping area, to set up in a



Heseltine: announcement today

750,000 sq ft out-of-town regional shopping centre at Cribbs Causeway on the M5. This will be a mini-Meadowhall complete with leisure facilities and is expected to open in the spring of 1998.

In recent years there has also been a rapid growth of business parks in north Bristol and they have begun to challenge the city for new development.

The Ministry of Defence opened its Procurement Executive office complex in north Bristol this summer. At 1.2 million sq ft, it was the biggest office scheme in Britain and it has had a big impact on the area, attracting defence-related companies and boosting the local housing market. The nearby Bradley Stoke housing estate is no longer "sadly broke" as a BBC documentary programme described it. House prices are increasing by about 1 per cent a month.

In the west, the opening last June of the £350 million Second Severn Crossing is having a profound effect on both sides of the river. On the Bristol side, a 2,000-acre tract of land is being developed by ICI and RTZ and marketed as Severnside. It is in this area that Bristol has

scored one of its greatest successes, the privatisation of the present Bristol Docks at Portbury. The port now boasts that it is the UK's second-biggest car-handler and has gained more than £100 million investment since it passed into private hands.

Today's investment announcements in the city centre will do much to redress the imbalance that was developing between the two areas, city centre and out of town.

City council attempts to keep companies such as Bristol & West Building Society and BT in the centre appear to have succeeded. Bristol & West is now a racing certainty to move to Temple Quay, and there is a good possibility that it will be joined by BT. In total, they require about 400,000 sq ft — more than the average annual take-up of office space in the city.

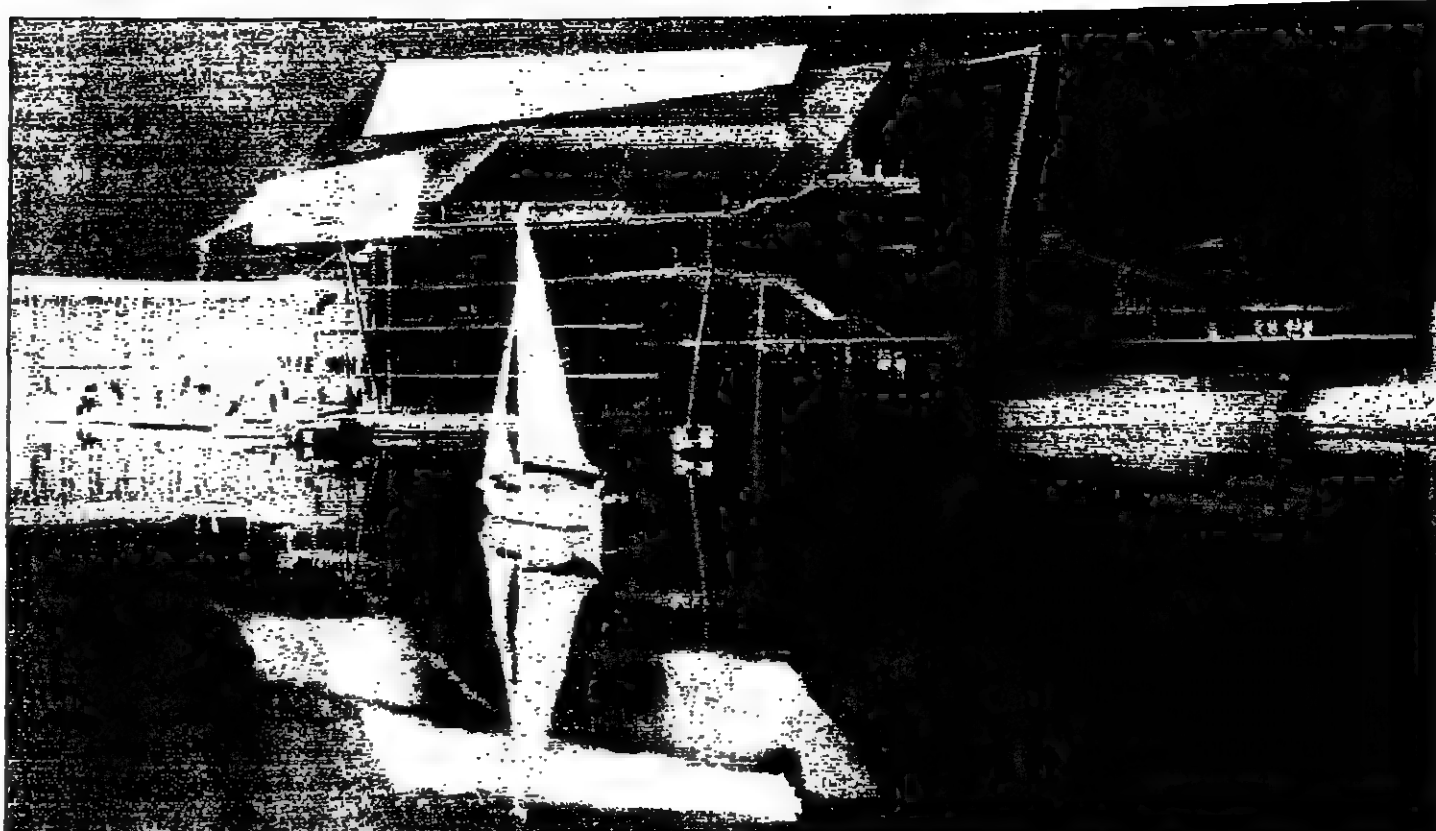
There is also progress in tackling traffic problems. Companies are being asked to submit plans for a rapid transit system that could cost up to £400 million.

The management of the town centre is being handled by the Broadmead Board, set up by the public and private sectors. John Lewis's Broadmead premises are being taken over by Bentalis, which will undertake a £10 million refurbishment programme before it opens in autumn 1998.

The initial success of the Broadmead Board has caught the interest of Newcastle, Coventry, and Swansea.

Paul Smith, the chairman of the council's city committee and joint chairman of the Broadmead Board, says: "Companies we thought were going to leave the city are now deciding to stay and that is obviously anchoring a large number of jobs within the city. I think we are beginning to win the battle against out-of-town development — residential, commercial and retail."

For the first time in about 30 years, the population of the city has increased. And this has been mainly in the central area.



A model of the Centre for the Performing Arts proposed for Canon's Marsh in the Harbourside area. Arts Council funding is being sought

How they all pulled together

After years of decline, public and private sectors united



Portillo: remarkable change

Bristol has become a "model city for regeneration". Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, announced when he opened the MoD's massive £254 million defence procurement headquarters in north Bristol earlier this year. It was music to the ears of many Labour councillors present, who could remember bitter battles with the Thatcher Government over the issue.

Mr Portillo acknowledged that there had been a remarkable change. One of the reasons Bristol failed to win any City Challenge money five years ago was because the Government could not believe the public and private sectors were really working together, he said.

That failed challenge had depressed many in both camps. They were seeing other cities such as Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff forge ahead. Bristol, with its long seafaring history and its status for much of the past millennium as the realm's second city, faced an

uncertain future. Its position had sunk to eighth and its image tarnished as the Government set about imposing an urban development corporation on a most reluctant local authority.

The city council fought it all the way to the House of Lords but without success. But it meant that the corporation received little support for much of its existence.

"Bristol unfortunately had a reputation for being preoccupied with politics and it suffered," Nicholas Hood, chairman of Westsex Water, says. "The city and the area receded in the Seventies and Eighties. When I was a boy the tobacco industry employed 40,000 people in Bristol. Today I think it is

sectors came towards each other and there was a realisation that unless we all started working together and pulling in the same direction things were not going to happen in Bristol."

St John Hartnell, senior partner of commercial agent Hartnell Taylor Cook, says: "The initiative was eventually about 70-strong and had every chairman of every mover and shaker in Bristol as a member."

It was merged with the Chamber of Commerce in 1993 to form a rather unique animal, the Chamber of Commerce and Initiative.

Ken Johnson, projects director of English Partnerships, says: "Bristol is going to have more to shout about than it has had for a long time. There is now a tremendous opportunity for the city to become very upbeat."

There are now 16 partnership schemes. Joint activities range from housing for the poor to developing £200 million projects such as Harbourside.

just 300. The drinks industry and, of course defence, has also declined."

Louis Sherwood, chairman of HTV, recalls "about a dozen leading businessmen getting together in 1989 to create the Initiative. In a sense both public and private



Temple Quay: it is to become Bristol's top office sector, linking the railway station and main shopping area

Marketing skills to bring real work to the jobless

The region offers investors a thriving business centre with good road, rail, air and shipping links

Bristol has an important strategic role to play in the economic development and regeneration of the area around it. As a major manufacturing base, the city is of great importance in helping to attract new investment.

The Western Development Partnership (WDP) is carrying out work to help local businesses to thrive. The organisation was formed in 1993 by local public and private-sector partners in what used to be known as the county of Avon, which was replaced this year by four unitary authorities for Bristol, Bath, the Somerset resort of Weston-super-Mare and south Gloucestershire in the area where the M4 meets the M5. It promotes the sub-region as "Bristol, Bath, West of England".

It is backed by the area's local authorities, the business community and a range of other agencies committed to economic development. Operating as a limited company it plans to develop the area as one of the most prosperous and technically advanced in Europe, through a strategy of diversifying the economy.

Bristol is a thriving financial services, manufacturing and retail centre with excellent motorway, rail, air and shipping links. Like other areas in the region, however, it also has inner-city deprivation and pockets of high unemployment and long-term joblessness. WDP is harnessing the

skills of local authorities, the business community, training and employment agencies and academics to develop a blueprint for a strategy for regeneration.

Martin Willey, the chief executive, says: "The WDP has got all the organisations involved in economic development and regeneration to pull in one direction. As regards inward investment, we are beginning to secure a substantial increase in company relocation."

There has been a complete turnaround in co-operation. It has been a great achievement

The organisation has progressively developed initiatives to target the development of industrial and business sectors that are strongly represented in the area. These are backed by seconded staff from local companies, including British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce, and by regular support from higher education, government agencies and organisations such as the Western Training and Enterprise Council (Westec), which pro-

vides WDP with substantial funding.

Initiatives include a West of England Aerospace Forum and other specialist industry-led groups for financial services, multimedia, direct marketing, medicine and health and printing and packaging.

Westec operates as a private company and plays a central role in attracting business, ensuring the local workforce has skills that employers want and helping

regeneration at Westec, says the area's economy is now supported by a powerful network of partnership organisations.

"Compared with five years ago, there has been a complete turnaround in terms of co-operation in the area. It has been a great achievement." He believes one of the notable advances has been in "people development" and points out that about 25 per cent of the area's employees now work for companies that have achieved or are working towards the Investors in People standard.

About 6,000 people, either long-term unemployed or aged 16 to 24, are undergoing training. A further 900 people have benefited from Modern Apprenticeships since the scheme started in 1994.

The Western Development Partnership is one of five economic development agencies operating in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire. Its efforts are backed by the West of England Development Agency (WEDA), the Government-funded inward investment organisation for the region. The idea is that the various county-based bodies and WEDA co-operate and "turn as a pack" to establish a marketable identity for the region in order to attract inward investors.

CRAIG SETON

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Voyage that will put Bristol back on map

Twenty-seven million people watched the programme on BBC television and 17 million on ITV, so it must have been a World Cup final or a royal wedding. But no, the event that attracted so many viewers was the Festival of the Sea celebration in Bristol earlier this year.

No one was more surprised than the sponsors, who had thought up the event almost as a backdrop for the launch of a replica of John Cabot's ship, *Matthew*, which set out from Bristol in 1497. The "real" event is next year, when the *Matthew*, after a royal send-off, retraces Cabot's epic voyage across the Atlantic in which the explorer landed in North America and called it "New Foundland".

Matthew's promoters — Bristol's public and private sectors — hope not only that the voyage will help to put Bristol back on the world map but will also "destroy the Columbus myth". "Columbus never set foot on North America, Cabot was the real hero," says St John Hartnell, chairman of the Cabot committee that has realised this scheme, and senior partner of commercial property agents Hartnell, Taylor, Cook. The voyage is also a reminder of Bristol's illustrious past. For centuries it was the second city in the land and the kingdom's most important port.

The *Matthew* project was born at an important time — when the city seemed to be losing out to other places in importance and even its own inhabitants were losing faith. There were riots, and a growing exodus of companies from Bristol.

"The whole of Bristol is behind *Matthew*," says Mr Hartnell. "Everyone refers to it as our ship. Many people would argue that the ship itself has been the cause of the get-together in Bristol — the first outward sign that the city and private enterprise could really work together."

When *Matthew* sets sail on May 2, exactly 500 years after John Cabot, it may be accompanied by a flotilla of small and tall ships. Cana-



Setting sail: the replica of John Cabot's *Matthew*

da's new destroyer, HMS *St John*, will escort the ship across the Atlantic.

By the time the journey starts everyone should know about it. In Bristol there will be two balls, one at the start of the journey along the Avon and one at the end. Along the river there will be a mile-long, two-day fair culminating in a fireworks display at Fortbury.

For those not able to witness this event in person there is to be television coverage. The BBC is to broadcast six half-hour, prime-time programmes during the ship's voyage across the Atlantic. There will be simultaneous broadcasts throughout the United States and Canada.

When *Matthew* arrives in North America, the festivities will restart. The ship will

be greeted by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chrétien, and Brian Tobin, the Premier of Newfoundland.

Several events are planned as *Matthew* circumnavigates Newfoundland, travels up the St Lawrence river to Boston, Massachusetts, and then on to Newport, Rhode Island, and New York. Everyone should have heard of Bristol by journey's end.

Matthew's promoters describe it as "one of the highest profile events of 1997". The scheme, which has cost £1.75 million, has been underwritten by festival chairman Michael Slade, who runs property developers Helical Bar. He is not expected to be out of pocket.

TONY SUTTON

A site, unwanted for a decade, is to become the biggest area for renewal, says Tony Sutton

When Michael Heseltine visits Temple Quay today he will come to applaud success. But 12 months ago the 23-acre site in Bristol city centre seemed almost impossible to develop. Many national developers had come and departed empty-handed.

Now Bristol & West Building Society should announce that it will be building the biggest headquarters offices the city centre has seen in recent times.

Assuming the best laid plans do not go awry, Bristol & West will be buying the 2.6-acre waterfront site opposite NatWest Life's headquarters and putting up 270,000 sq ft of buildings, to be built in phases. The first phase of 150,000 sq ft will start next year.

At the same time property developer Castlemore will be signing up to produce a speculative office scheme of nearly 45,000 sq ft and a mixed-use leisure/retail facility of 70,000 sq ft.

All these developments are in the core part of a 23-acre site stretching from Brunel's much-admired Temple Meads railway station to the Floating Harbour. This area is destined to become Bristol's new office quarter. There is planning consent for up to one million sq ft of offices, but the final density is likely to be less, perhaps 750,000 sq ft. It will be supported by shops, restaurants and other services.

Ken Johnson, projects director for English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration body, says: "What we are creating here is the best office site in Bristol." The agency is investing £15 million in the site with the creation of new roads, squares and public open spaces. Investment from the private sector is expected to be in excess of £200 million.

The city council is keen to have a large arena for staging events which would serve the region and be ideally located next to Bristol's main railway station. The agency is examining how it could be funded as it



Cheers: Bristol entrepreneurs Michael Slade, left, and St John Hartnell drink a toast on Harbourside to the city's future

£215 million plan for city's new business heart

would require a public subsidy.

This is the first major site that English Partnerships has taken over from a development corporation and could be the model for other such transactions.

New road links to be built

at the end of its life, English Partnerships will acquire the Royal Docks. And in the same year, in Plymouth, the development corporation's flagship site, Royal William Yard, is also likely to pass into the



Ken Johnson: "It'll be the best office site in Bristol"

agency's hands. In effect the agency is taking over unfinished business of the corporations which in some cases will be rescue missions, ranging from half-completed schemes to projects which are still in the pipeline.

Despite six years of intensive marketing, the corporation had failed to secure any regeneration of its key site. In ten years the site has gone through three name changes — Temple Meads, Quay Point and now Temple Quay. So what English Partnerships has achieved in just under 12

Project to boost retail and leisure

months is remarkable. It has been helped by a dramatic change in the political climate, a rapidly improving economy — and by putting more public money into the site.

"The approach we are taking is very proactive," says Mr Johnson. "We are in direct control, using the appropriate development agencies such as Castlemore and Bristol & West to procure individual buildings. I think it looks as if this approach is going to pay dividends."

English Partnerships in Bristol has also forged a close working relationship with the city council. "Although the city is not a landowner at Temple Quay, we are working with them very closely in terms of developing the masterplan and going through the planning process. This means there is a general involvement in an important part of the city," Mr Johnson says.

"It is a good relationship. It works well given the difficulties that existed between the city and the development corporation."

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THE ARTS AND TOURISM

Step into a lions' den at the electronic zoo

Slow-motion replays showing how animals function, zooming into a termite colony to see how it works and dropping in on a penguin colony in the polar regions — these are just some of a range of attractions visitors will be able to experience in Britain's first electronic zoo, Tony Sutton writes.

Due to open in 1999, it will be one of the elements making up Wildscreen World and Science World at Harbourside, Bristol's historic harbour area. A year later, it is expected that they will be joined by a Centre for the Performing Arts (CPA) which will finally achieve Bristol's long-term dream of giving the region "a new focus for leisure, the arts and tourism".

Christopher Parsons, the man behind Wildscreen World, says that the mixing of elements — animals, models, graphics and audiovisual systems in an integrated way to

tell a story has not been done before. There will also be a large format 3D cinema supported by six-track sound. The effect will be to transport the audience to the habitat on view. You could find yourself surrounded by sharks or perhaps lions.

Mr Parsons, who produced David Attenborough's *Life on Earth* series, says: "This is just one component of what you might call a year-round, all-weather visitor attraction about the natural world. It tries to provide something for all ages and levels of interest."

Nicholas Hood, chairman of the Bristol 2000 scheme, which covers these developments on Harbourside, thinks that the project will add £30 million a year to the local economy. This is the first major scheme outside London to be awarded money from the Millennium Commission. It gets £41 million towards the £82 million project and only £2 million of the balance is outstanding.

Louis Sherwood, chairman of HTV and the CPA project, is hoping for similar success with the Arts Council where a bid for £75 million for the performing arts centre has recently been submitted. He expects a reply by May.

The CPA will not only give Bristol the modern concert hall it so badly needs, but also a medium dance theatre — the first facility in Britain to meet the Arts Council specification. There will also be a residential development on the 66-acre Harbourside. Bristol city council and British Gas will shortly be marketing space for 250,000 sq ft of offices.

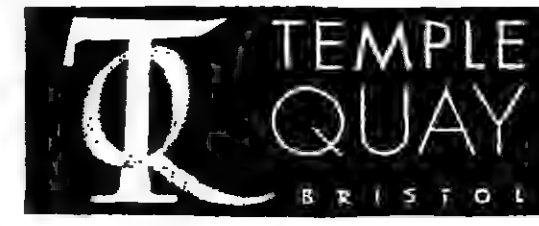
These commercial elements on Harbourside which were planned to help to fund the leisure and art centre components. But because the commercial programme has slipped behind the leisure schemes, English Partnerships has stepped in to provide £19 million to build the public squares, open spaces car park and roads.

Ken Johnson, projects director for English Partnerships, says: "We are acting as the front funder, taking a lot of the risk out of the complicated partnership scheme."

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SCHOOL WEEK IN THE TIM

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EDUCATION

What you should ask when your child is ready for A levels and, right, the students who won the best grades

How to choose the right sixth-form place

Anne Lee offers expert advice on making the all-important decision

Some senior schools do not have a sixth form so choice is forced on its pupils, and some students want to take the opportunity to consider removing the straitjacket of the schooling they have so far received. The choice is between moving on to a specialist sixth-form college, or changing to an independent or state school.

The autumn term is the time when schools hold their sixth-form days. How do you put through the persuasive presentations to assess the real value of what is offered? The first place to which many ambitious parents turn is the league table. Though actual results can be a guide to strength and weakness, league table positions may mask outstanding achievements in one school, and overstate success in another. Dig deeper. Assessing teaching quality at a school you know is easier than establishing the quality of teaching elsewhere. A series of excellent A-level results can conceal key weaknesses. I came into contact with one apparently outstanding school where many pupils studied economics and related subjects. The pupils later told me that the mathematics teacher had hallucinated.

The numbers of pupils opting to study a subject can be as significant as the grades achieved. You may not expect large numbers to study Latin in an academic school, but you would expect maths, English, European languages, history, geography and the sciences to have reasonably strong support. Parents should look closely at the range of subjects offered, and match it to their child's strengths.

Some 16-year-olds will thrive on a diet of media studies, history of art and photography, others will not be sufficiently challenged. They may need the more traditional "hard" A-level subjects for possible entry to university courses.

If your child has learning difficulties, sympathetic teaching and a policy that allows extra time for internal and external examinations can be essential.

Boarding schools clearly have more time to offer extracurricular opportunities, but parents need again to look behind the rhetoric.

How often do all the clubs and societies actually meet, how many members do they have? What happens at weekends: does the school empty because they are really weekly boarders, or are good staff also on duty then? When is the art room or the computer room open and supervised? Teenagers do not want to be organised all the time, but they should be encouraged to take opportunities, otherwise the wine bar or pub may become the only focal point.

Some sixth-form colleges offer specialist courses. Ben Elton claimed that his education was saved because his parents noticed his obsession with drama and sent him to a sixth-form college to study just that.

Sixth-form colleges can be a relief for some pupils because they offer the chance of a fresh start and to study subjects not offered within the normal curriculum. For some, however, they can be hell because they are often large and anonymous. A dislocated youngster can more easily get academically or socially lost in his type of environment than in a school where staff have known them since they were aged 11 or 13.



A student at a girls' school: would it be best for her to stay in a single-sex environment?

ment than in a school where staff have known them since they were aged 11 or 13.

Ask about the list of courses and institutions to which past pupils have moved. Ask who gives careers advice and about their experience. Some schools are particularly good at this, and the old boys' or old girls' network can be very strong.

If you are eager for your child to attend a leading university, the statistics on entry tell us that you may be best advised to send them to a state school with a strong tradition of tutoring for interviews to Oxford and Cambridge.

You should certainly find out whether the school you choose can give good careers advice. Some pupils believe they have been marking time until they can go and

work, so can the sixth form ensure that they have marketable skills, and perhaps raise their occupational horizons?

Disciplinary expectations in sixth forms vary enormously. Sixteen-year-olds need to learn to manage their own freedom — but with safety nets. A good sixth form will have a few rules and methods of monitoring behaviour, but those rules should be clearly communicated and enforced.

Sometimes, pupils at single-sex schools want to move to what they may describe as a "more normal" environment. Coeducation, if the hormones are raging, may be the better option for these teenagers.

The teaching in girls' schools tends to be much more prescribed and organised than in some coedu-

cational or boys' schools. One girl described her move from a girls' grammar to an independent coeducational sixth form as a real test of motivation, akin to going to university. She loved the increased social life, the better facilities and the boarding school ethos but horrified her parents when she casually said: "Of course, I will not get the A-level grades I would have got had I stayed at my old school."

So changing school or staying on is the dilemma. If you let your teenager do the analysis, then check together that all the important points have been covered; the sixth-form years can be an exhilarating but safe step towards adult independence.

● The author, a former headmistress, is an education and business adviser and a governor of Queenswood School.

A second place is still winning

David Charter reports on two colleges with remarkable records of success

The influence of the country's most consistently excellent sixth-form college pervaded the top of the examinations league this year despite its fall from first to second place.

Nearly 600 students gained an average of three Bs at A level in Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, its best performance since the national tables began in 1992. The 575 students averaged 23.9 A-level points each, up on last year's 21.9.

Hills Road was pipped to the summit of the college table by the 25.3 points averaged by 474 candidates at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Philip Byles, Principal at Stourbridge, admits that the "Hills Road factor" had a part to play in his own success story. He joined King Edward VI four years ago from his post as Vice-Principal at the Cambridge college. Both he and Colin Greenhalgh, Principal at Hills Road, concede that there is an element of selectivity by both colleges, which gives them an advantage over other colleges.

King Edward VI is oversubscribed by 30 per cent and Hills Road students that students must have Bs at GCSE for the A levels; they want to study and relevant Cs for advanced GNVQs.

Mr Byles says: "The results are impressive because they are obtained by children in a metropolitan borough who generally do not have the advantages of children in the shire counties. We are fed entirely by comprehensive schools and have been able to preserve a very positive work ethic."

"Some people would say that we are too exam-orientated, but there is a huge amount of activity going on — for example, there are three plays this term. It is simply a college where a lot is expected."

At Hills Road, Mr Greenhalgh says: "There is a strong achievement culture here. People say we have got a good intake and we do have a lot of very hard-working and

committed students, but we have done a lot of work on added value. We add two full A-level grades per student on average. So someone who would have expected to get three Cs based on their GCSE results would get two Bs and a C here."

The 1,300-student college, founded in 1974, gives priority to youngsters from its immediate area. More than 90 per cent go on to university. However, students say Hills Road is about much more than academic success.

Abigail Clarke, 17, the secretary of the student council, says: "I think all the students are very aware of the Hills Road reputation but the pressure is not immense. There is very much a feeling that staff are on our side. They are all very approachable on any problems — whether they are college-related or otherwise."

Hills Road is in the middle of an ambitious building programme, financed by £1 million from its own reserves, £2 million from donors, including lottery money, and a matching grant of £3 million from the Further Education Funding Council. The first phase, a £2 million sports centre available to the community in the evenings, has just opened.

Both Hills Road and King Edward VI have large average class sizes. In Stourbridge, science classes can have 18 students and non-science 20. At Hills Road, the average is 17, but Mr Greenhalgh believes this has advantages.

"It is one reason we are regarded by the funding council and the Government as being very efficient as well as successful," he says. "When I was in the sixth form, you had five or six people in small groups and you might be amazingly unlucky and find nobody there would sparkle. It could be quite dull, whereas with 17, you are always going to find some bright sparks."



Students at Hills Road: there is a strong achievement culture

Revealed: secret wish of the century's greatest scientist

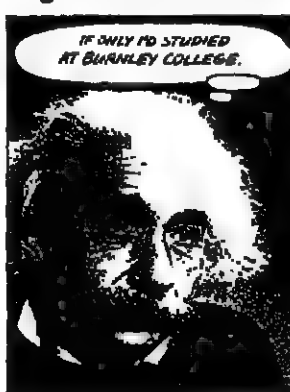
Albert Einstein wishes he had gone to college in Burnley, David Charter writes. The century's most celebrated scientist helps to promote the Lancashire college in advertisements showing a thought balloon that reveals his inner desire to study there.

Burnley's Einstein campaign, now in its third year, broke new ground in the way colleges used quirky advertising in an eye-catching way to win enrolments.

Tom Lemmon, its marketing manager, said: "For the first year we tried the campaign, colleagues inside the college were very unsure. But it seemed to get a big response outside because it was humorous. This year our research showed that the recognition factor was high, and the staff in the college are solidly behind it."

Burnley's lead was followed locally by other colleges using famous faces to sell themselves. Advertising agencies say that colleges are the fastest growth market in education as they vie for students against each other and ambitious school sixth forms. Colleges spend as much as £100,000 a year in the battle to attract students, but some of the more aggressive marketing has fallen foul of the Advertising Standards Authority.

Einstein's theory of selling yourself



Burnley's advertisement

ernance and management. Birmingham was awarded nine grade 1s and four grade 2s, while Clarendon received 11 grade 1s, six 2s and two 3s. They both averaged 1.5 for curriculum subjects.

Eddie McIntyre, the Birmingham Principal, says: "The governors, students and staff of the college had worked very hard to achieve the inspection result that showed that we are clearly, by any measure, the best college in the country, and we did not want that hard work undermined by a usurper."

Clarendon argued that the claim was made in only one of its leaflets and insisted Birmingham was a specialist institution, and not therefore comparable with a general further education college.

The authority disagreed and ruled that Clarendon could no

longer say "According to the FEPC, Clarendon College is the best general FE college in England". But it allowed Clarendon to continue claiming it was "number one for students", because it felt the statement would be viewed as the opinion of the colleges, and not of inspectors.

To some outside the bitterly competitive world of tertiary education, the dispute may seem an exercise in hair-splitting, but the colleges are clearly determined to fight their corners.

Earlier in the year, Warrington Collegiate Institute clashed with Wigan and Leigh College over local press advertisement which claimed: "Wigan and Leigh College definitely the right choice! Government inspectors make it official." It added: "The best college in the North West."

The authority upheld Warrington's complaint because readers might have thought the last statement was made by inspectors. It also pointed out that not all the colleges in the North West had been inspected at that time.

Burnley envisages no such rancour with its Einstein campaign. This year it dressed the scientist in a Star Trek shirt and put the image on buses and beer mats, captioned: "I could have been Captain Kirk if I'd gone to Burnley College." Enrolments went up by 11 per cent.

There is beginning to be a big link between the image of Einstein and Burnley College, said Mr Lemmon. "We definitely have a higher profile because of it. It is also so silly that nobody in their right mind is going to complain. If it raises a smile, you are getting your message across without saying 'We are the best college in the world' or knocking the opposition."

The question is, why do you need to pay?

Lucy Hodges on a pace-setting college without fees

Why pay school fees when you can send your offspring to a sixth-form college which is good, and free? Significant numbers of parents in north London answer by sending their sons and daughters to Woodhouse College, in Finchley.

Parents are happy, and the students like it because they are treated more as adults, they have the chance to mix with the opposite sex and they get high-class chat in the canteen.

"I am really enjoying it," says Libby Sallnow, who is in the lower sixth and came from a comprehensive school in Southgate. "It is really academic and has the most amazing social life. I have met so many people like me, with really similar interests."

A former grammar school, Woodhouse College, with its beautiful 19th-century building, retains the ethos of an academic institution. The A-level results have improved since its grammar school days and this year the pass rate was 93 per cent.

How does the college manage to compete so effectively with the private sector? The answer is that it selects more than half its 800 students from a wide range of independent and state schools all over north London and turns away several hundred applicants each year. It also gets rid of a few students who are not making the grade at the end of the first year.

The Principal, Colin Wharton, says: "We have maintained the structure and

discipline and academic success of an old grammar school. Students who come here want to do well. They aspire to go to university and 90 per cent do."

It is made clear to lower-sixth-formers that they must turn up by 8.45am and undertake supervised private study. That means they have to work during some of their free periods at the college and sign a register to prove they are doing so. "They get more work done that way," says Dr Wharton.

Parents are kept informed of their offspring's progress via

parent evenings and reports. If a problem arises, the college does not hesitate to write home and involve mother and father.

One reason the college is so popular with students, according to Dr Wharton, is that it offers a broader curriculum than many conventional school sixth forms. Students can study the traditional academic subjects at A level, as well as psychology, design, business studies and accounts. They may also do a wide range of A/S levels, including philosophy, law, and information technology.

Vocational courses — the diploma of vocational education and GNVQs — are provided for 60 students who are not following the academic route and who come largely from the two feeder schools in the neighbourhood.

All students are carefully counselled, belonging to a tutor group led by a personal tutor who meets students daily and for an hour's tutorial once a week. The tutor's job is to get to know students well, give them general advice, help with individual problems and with their work.

Dr Wharton believes that this pastoral system is the key to the college's success. His main regret is the college's physical condition. Funding arrangements mean that money is tight. The science laboratories need upgrading and the library and study facilities are cramped. The students need a common room and the art room is inadequate. But there are plans for money to be raised for major rebuilding.

The physical drawbacks do not seem to deter parents. Basil Samuels, a parent governor, whose daughter, Laura, was previously at City of London School for Girls in the Barbican, says he is delighted with it. "Students," he says, "are so enthusiastic, despite the laboratories and the classrooms and the library."

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CHANGING TIMES

CP 11/20 1550

Liability for deceit of wrongdoer

Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd and Another

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Steyn

[Speeches November 21]
Where deceit was practised by an intentional wrongdoer he was liable for the actual damage which directly flowed from the fraudulent inducement without reference to the transaction date by any other date, and foreseeability of such damage was irrelevant.

Where the plaintiff was truly locked into the transaction and there was a sufficient causal link between the fraudulent inducement and the plaintiff's loss, he was to be compensated for all the actual loss suffered by him from the inducement, including all consequential losses, and such a loss was to be measured by comparing his position before the inducement with the position he was in because of his reliance on it.

The plaintiff had to give credit for any benefit he received, including the market value of the asset as at the date of acquisition. He was required to take reasonable steps to mitigate the loss on discovering the fraud.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Smith New Court Securities Ltd, and dismissing a cross-appeal by the second defendant, Citibank NA, from a decision dated February 17, 1994 of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Hoffmann) (The Times March 8, 1994; [1994] 1 WLR 1271).

That court had allowed an appeal by Citibank from an order of Mr Justice Chadwick (The Times April 7, 1992; [1992] BCLC 1104) and varied the order, *inter alia*, substituting £1,046,000 for £10,764,000 awarded by the judge to Smith by way of damages.

On July 21, 1989 Mr Roberts, representative of Citibank, made fraudulent misrepresentations: first, that

in buying shares in Ferranti International plc, a public company, Smith would be competing with two other bidders; second, when invited to a meeting where Smith was aiming to make an offer, Mr Roberts wrongly stated that he would disclose the competing bids after Smith had made the bid and third, he mentioned that two other named companies had made bids.

Smith bought, for about £23 million, over 28 million shares in Ferranti for £2.25p each with a view to holding them as a market making risk and only selling them as and when an appropriate opportunity arose.

By September 1989 it became known that Mr Guerini had practised fraud on Ferranti. This caused a slump in the value of Ferranti's shares. Between November 20, 1989 and April 30, 1990 Smith sold the shares in small parcels for 40p to 30p per share. It only received nearly £11 million.

Smith brought an action against Scrimgeour Vickers, to which Citibank was added as the second defendant, for damages. The judge had found, dismissing the action against Scrimgeour Vickers that Smith was induced to enter into an agreement to buy the shares from Ferranti by false and fraudulent representations made by Citibank's representative, Christopher Nigel Roberts. He decided that Smith was entitled to recover damages of £10,764,000, together with interest, from Citibank. That sum represented the difference between the price paid by Smith and the true value of the shares.

Scrimgeour Vickers took no part in the appeal.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Anthony Mann, QC for Citibank; Mr Anthony Grabner, QC, Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr John McCaughan for Smith.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON, agreeing with Lord Steyn, added that the law as laid down in cases decided at the end of the nineteenth century, usually in relation to shares purchased in reliance on a fraudulent prospectus,

was that, where a fraudulent misrepresentation had induced the plaintiff to enter into a contract of purchase, the measure of damages was, in general, the difference between the contract price and the true open market value of the property purchased, valued as at the date of the contract of purchase: see *Togores v Grant* ([1877] 2 CPD 469; *Waddell v Blockley* ([1877] 4 QBD 678; *Peck v Derry* ([1887] 37 ChD 541).

In *Clark v Unihart* ([1930] AC 28, 67-68) Lord Atkin cast doubt on whether the measure of damages laid down in those cases was correct. *Doble v Olby (Ironmongers) Ltd* ([1969] 2 QJ 158) restated the law correctly and rightly decided four points:

First, that the measure of damages where a contract had been induced by fraudulent misrepresentation was for the actual loss suffered by the plaintiff flowing from entering into the transaction.

Second, that in assessing such damages it was not an inflexible rule that the plaintiff must bring into account the value as at the transaction date of the asset acquired.

Third, damages for deceit were not limited to those which were reasonably foreseeable.

Fourth, the damages recoverable could include consequential loss suffered by reason of having acquired the asset.

In the light of the modern authorities the nineteenth-century cases could no longer be treated as laying down a strict and inflexible rule. In many cases, even in deceit, it would be appropriate to value the asset acquired as at the transaction date if that truly reflected the value of what the plaintiff had obtained.

In sum, the following principles applied in assessing the damages suffered by the plaintiff:

1 The defendant was bound to make reasonable steps to mitigate his loss once he had discovered the fraud.

2 Although such damage need not have been foreseeable, it must

have been directly caused by the transaction.

3 In assessing such damage, the plaintiff was entitled to recover by way of damages the full price paid by him, but he must give credit for any benefit which he had received as a result of the transaction.

4 As a general rule, the benefits received by him included the market value of the property acquired as at the date of acquisition but such general rule was not to be inflexibly applied where to do so would prevent him obtaining full compensation for the wrong suffered.

5 Although the circumstances in which the general rule should not apply were either (a) the misrepresentation had continued to operate after the date of the acquisition of the asset or (b) the circumstances of the case were such that the plaintiff was, by reason of the fraud, locked into the transaction.

6 In addition, the plaintiff was entitled to recover consequential losses caused by the transaction.

7 The plaintiff had to take all reasonable steps to mitigate his loss once he had discovered the fraud.

LORD MUSTILL, agreeing with Lord Steyn, added that not only the high authority of *Doble v Olby (Ironmongers) Ltd* could not be regarded as an inflexible rule, but the statement of damages for fraudulent misrepresentation. The appeal there was not fully argued by counsel.

The judgments were not reserved and did not sit very easily together. His Lordship suggested that in the future, when faced with situations such as the present, courts would do well to be guided by the seven propositions set out by Lord Browne-Wilkinson in the latter part of his speech. The fourth and fifth of those were amply sufficient to show that the damages awarded by the judge ought to be upheld.

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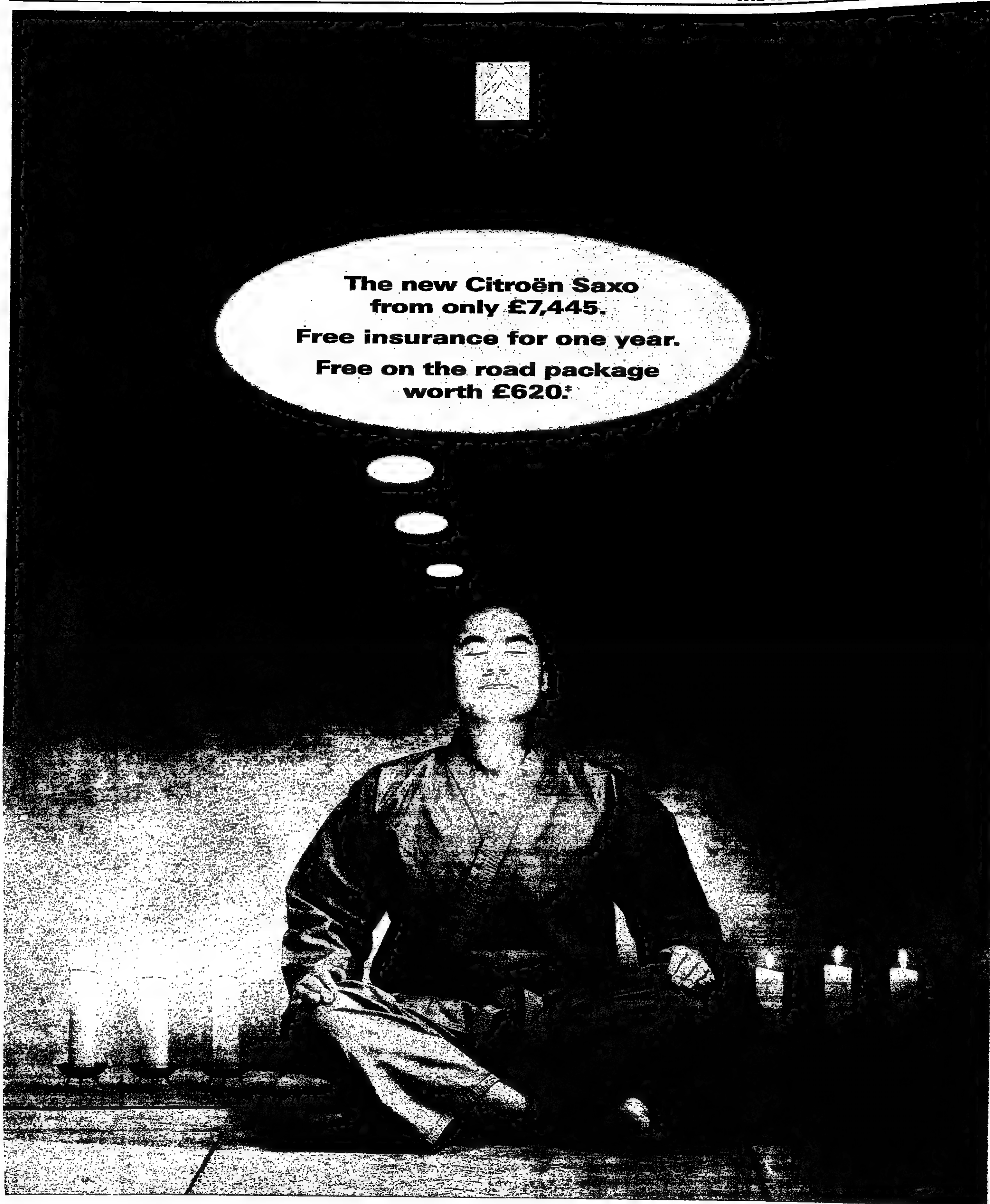
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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

P... pick up a press pack

THREE backs from *Sunday Business* spent an overnight to Marylebone police station, after they were caught marauding through London Zoo in the middle of the night. Anil Bhoyrul, acting editor, was lucky enough to escape, after an army of police put an end to the boisterous fun. Charlie Carr, ringleader and head of advertising at the rag, led the drunken pack straight to the zoo. He once famously picked up a feathered friend and smuggled it back to his home in a blue holdall. Carr plopped it in his bath, fed it on fishfingers, then returned it to the zoo the next day.

Page marked

BARBARA ROCHE was made to feel most unwelcome at this week's small business conference in Birmingham. On her arrival, the Shadow Small Business Minister was hurried into a nearby waiting room. Contrary to the conference-billing, Roche did not appear on the platform with Richard Page, Small Business Minister. Instead, at Page's request, she wasn't allowed on stage until he had been ushered out of a different entrance, ensuring their paths would not cross. Page's office denies that this was the reason. But Roche snarled: "Richard needn't have worried — I would have been very gentle with him."

Conversion due

JOLLY John Antcliffe is joining the dream team at Lowe Bell Financial after almost three years as a director of Dewe Rogerson. He told this a marriage made in heaven. Dewe Rogerson looks after Bristol & West while Lowe Bell takes care of Bank of Ireland. Honest Antcliffe, still in the pay of his present employers, declined an invitation to party with his new colleagues this week. He tells us that he will wait until his contract starts on February 1, earnestly adding: "I want to see the Woolwich conversion right through to the end."



"I started by pushing the wide's trolley around"

EVER wondered what happens to goods bought with stolen credit cards? From now, the repossessed items will be donated to Gifts in Kind, the charity launched yesterday by the Prince of Wales.

Deferred

LONG faces at Fleming Investment Management after a Christmas shopping spree had to be cancelled. An all-female team from Flemings was looking forward to an away-day in Paris, entertaining women pension fund consultants on the Eurostar. But because of this week's tunnel trouble, next Tuesday's trip has been postponed. Instead, the canny ladies are saving their pennies for a new year sales sortie.

RAILTRACK and London Transport are selling their umbrellas mountain to commuters today, to raise money for Children in Need. More than 1,000 last property umbrellas will be on sale at 14 stations around Britain.

MORAG PRESTON

The Budget could leave Tories with £3bn of election sweeteners

Last week I argued that Kenneth Clarke could do for the country in the Budget next week would be to announce a tax increase of £5 billion. The task for this column is to propose a package of measures that could plausibly achieve this result. First, a word about public spending. As I noted last week, demand could also be restrained by reducing public spending, rather than merely restricting its rate of growth as Mr Clarke has proposed. In the long run, all kinds of substantial savings could doubtless be achieved. But those who insist that today's economic dilemmas can simply be resolved by cutting public spending must answer two major objections.

First, experience suggests that governments (especially Tory governments) understate public spending pressures in their Budgets (especially in pre-election Budgets). Whatever the Chancellor announces next week, the chances are that the out-turn will be higher. It would therefore be rash to rely on even more ambitious targets for administrative savings and wage restraint than the ones Mr Clarke has already set. Genuine cuts are bound to be particularly difficult before elections, because the great bulk of public money is not spent on subsidising scoundrels or paying civil servants, but on very popular programmes (see top chart).

Secondly, and more fundamentally, public spending needs to be planned in long cycles: government programmes cannot be turned on and off like a tap. There may indeed be a strong case for long-term reforms in social security, child benefits and education financing, as well as for further cuts in defence spending. If such reforms could be implemented, large permanent tax cuts would be justified, but only when the savings were actually achieved. The key problem for the Budget next week, however, is to restrain demand in the next year, not in the next century. To do that would require immediate cuts in public spending — and it is hard to see where ministers could suddenly discover large overnight savings that Tory governments have missed for the past 17 years.

Without implying for a moment that the Government should slacken its efforts to root out "waste, fraud and abuse", the conclusion must be

that there is only one recourse, apart from raising interest rates, to restrain demand in the short-term. This is to increase taxes. A net tax increase of around £5 billion in next week's Budget would take enough demand out of the economy to remove any threat of inflation and obviate any further rise in interest rates. In fact, a fiscal tightening on this scale would probably allow interest rates to be reduced by a half point immediately and then to be pushed even lower, towards the levels prevailing in Germany and France, if demand continued to slow.

How, then, could a government raise an extra £5 billion in taxes in today's economic and political environment? "Very easily". Here are a few modest proposals. □ The present buoyancy of the housing market, combined with the possibility of cutting interest rates in a fiscally tough Budget offers an ideal opportunity to abolish mortgage interest relief at source (MIRAS). I have criticised past reductions in MIRAS in these columns on the grounds that the Government was kicking a weak housing market when it was already down. But economic policy is all about timing: a measure that was dangerous when the economy was weak would be sensible when mortgage borrowing is booming and house prices are rising. Abolishing MIRAS would raise £3 billion annually. Yet this tax increase would be almost painless if a tight

Budget were combined with a half-point reduction in interest rates. MIRAS is worth £315 a year to most homeowners. But a half-point cut in interest rates would reduce the cost of an average £55,000 mortgage by £275. The net cost to an average household would thus be £40 a year. This could be recouped through other measures, as suggested below. □ Two other large sources of tax revenue are crying out for the Chancellor's attention. Profit-related pay (PRP) was a gimmick of Nigel Lawson's that was transformed almost immediately into a blatant tax-avoidance scam that bore no relation to popular capitalism or risk-sharing by workers. Ending PRP would save £1.5 billion a year.

Another arcane area where reform could yield huge and immediate savings is Britain's unique and bizarre "imputation" system for taxing company dividends. This system, which is now under legal challenge by foreign multinational companies and investment institutions, effectively provides an additional subsidy for pension funds and personal equity plans, as well as creating a perverse incentive for British companies to distribute their profits through dividends rather than retaining them for investment. In 1993, Norman Lamont raised £1 billion annually by reducing the imputation rate from 25 to 20 per cent. Even without

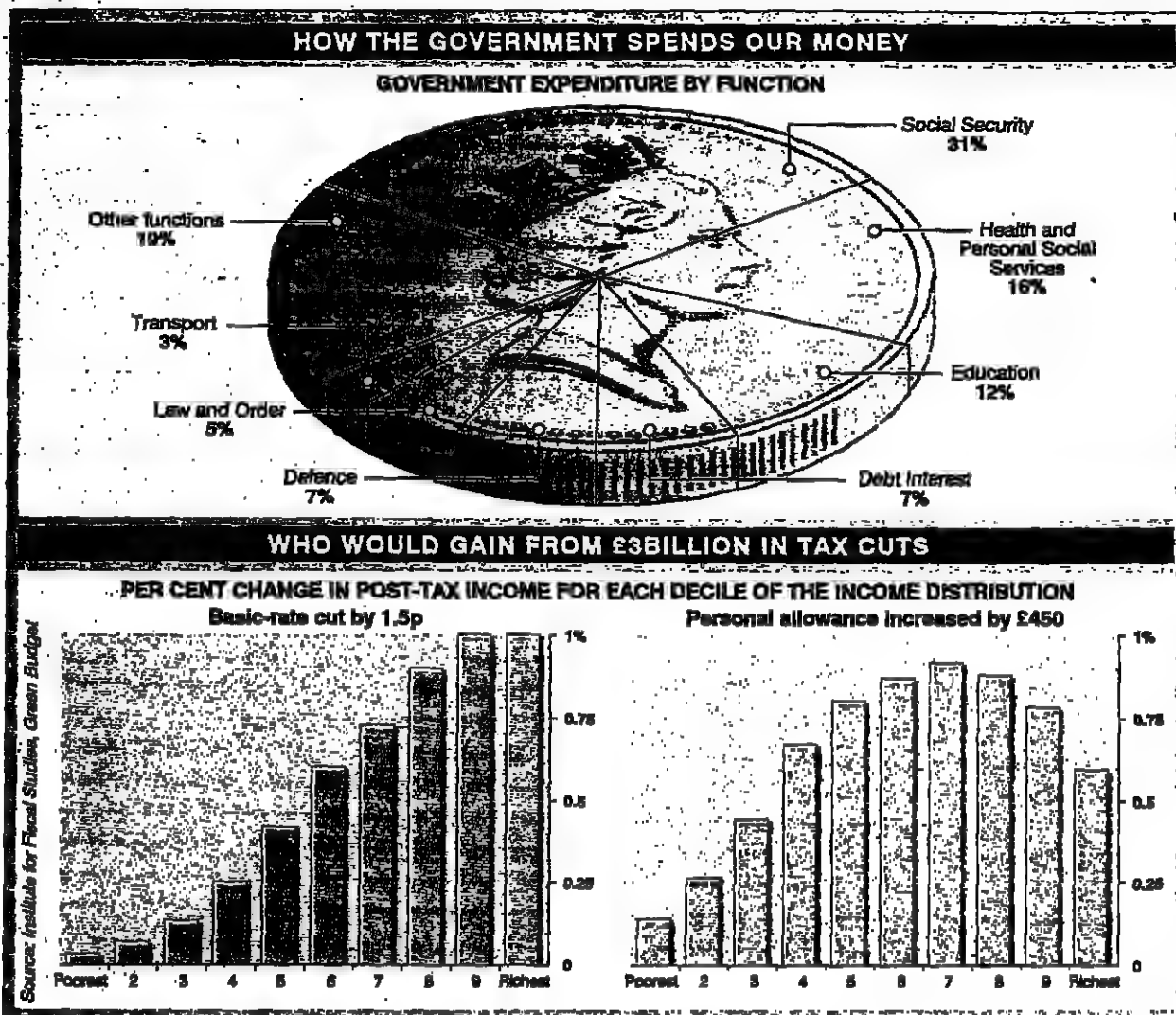
abolishing the imputation system completely, the Chancellor could raise a further £1 billion annually simply by cutting the imputation rate to 15 per cent. Of course this money would have to come from somewhere. Tampering with imputation might push down share prices and would certainly reduce the actuarial surpluses of pension funds, forcing people to save slightly more for their retirement. But that is all the more reason to act now, when share prices are in a bull market, pension funds are flush with cash and the booming economy makes it desirable to channel personal incomes into savings rather than consumption.

□ Higher indirect taxes would also another £1.5 billion a year to my revenue-raising package. The first obvious area is insurance, where an increase in the premium tax from 2.5 per cent to the 5 per cent minimum VAT level in Europe would raise about £700 million. The second is motoring and environmental taxation. Despite Norman Lamont's courageous decision to raise petrol taxes by 5 per cent annually in real terms, Britain still has some of the world's lowest petrol prices and encourages the use of diesel, probably the most detrimental to health. Considering Britain's high population density and the close correlation between traffic congestion and economic growth, a period of strong economic recovery would be the best possible



ANATOLE KALETSKY

How to raise taxes by £5bn and win a fifth term in office



Old habits die hard as French launch private pension debate

Employees may be reluctant to lose a state system, writes Adam Sage

After five years of debate, hesitation and false starts, the French Government is to introduce private pension funds to a country that relies almost exclusively on its ailing social security system. The proposal to create pension funds went before the French National Assembly yesterday, with the Socialists promising to oppose them and the Government determined that they should become law by January.

Despite fierce controversy over a project seen by unions as an attack on traditional state pensions, the Gaullist-led cabinet says that it is determined to push through a law that will pave the way for private pension schemes.

Not only will the proposals mark a radical change in the way the French plan for retirement, but they could also revolutionise the Paris stock market, which is smaller and weaker than its main counterparts abroad.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said that the new schemes will target the country's 14 million private sector workers, who will obtain tax deductions against payments made into the funds. On retirement, they should be given the option of receiving either a pension or a lump sum, M Juppé said.

At present, only the self-employed and civil servants can obtain such tax deductions, and they often have little interest in doing so given the generosity of state-pensions for lower income groups. As a result, the private pensions industry is of marginal importance in France, catering for just over 500,000 people.

Administered by insurance companies and mutuals, the French equivalent of friendly societies, the new funds will function on an altogether different scale, according to the project's supporters.

They say that the market in private pensions will be worth between £30 billion and £50 billion in the short term, and far more in the longer term. The pension industry hopes that over the next 15 years, it can attract up to a third of the £2,400 billion invested by the French in life insurance policies.

If so, the more ambitious claims made on behalf of the French stock market could prove well founded. At present worth £2,700 billion, and with about a third of its shares owned by non-French institutions, *La Bourse*, and in its wake, the French economy, would be transformed by the injection

of pension funds, enabling it to compete with rivals abroad, analysts say.

One idea floated by the French administration is for pension schemes to be legally bound to invest 60 per cent of their funds in French or European shares.

Didier Maillard, director of economic studies at Paribas Bank, said: "A country can only exist as an economic actor if it has important and organised shareholders." The pension funds will provide France with just that, as they have elsewhere, he hopes.

This, however, is by no means the only motive behind the Government's proposals. With the welfare deficit reaching £51.6 billion this year, France can no longer afford generous state pensions under which employees on average incomes can expect to receive 80 per cent of their salaries.

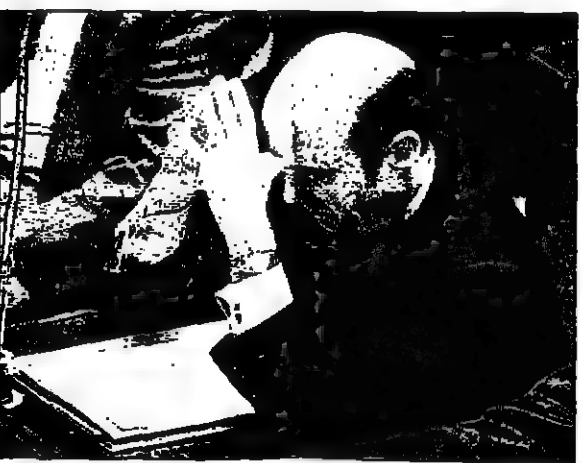
According to Arnaud d'Yvoire, general-secretary of the Pensions Observatory, a Paris-based quango set up to oversee the pensions system, such high levels could only be maintained if workers paid about 12 per cent of their earnings into the state's scheme — an unacceptable amount.

"At the moment, the only people who take a significant fall in earnings when they retire are the very high paid," he said. "But in the future, that situation is going to reach the middle classes and even the working classes. Without a miracle, the state pension is going to decline."

He is not, however, convinced that the new funds will be as successful as their supporters claim. Politically sensitive, proposals to boost the private pension industry have been floated several times by different governments since the start of the decade but shelved on every previous occasion.

Observers say that the Prime Minister could be forced to limit tax deductions and maintain an obligation to make payments into the state pension system in order to ensure his proposals are politically acceptable.

Emmanuel Reynaud, a pensions expert at the Institute of Social and Economic Studies, based in Paris, said: "I'm not sure that French pension funds will be very successful. Those promoting the project hope it will make the Paris stock market more active. But for this to happen, employees will need to sign up and that will take a very long time."



Alain Juppé is hoping to offer tax incentives

Retroactive windfall tax no better than legalised robbery

From Mr Richard Thomas Sir, Surely there is an important principle at stake in the current discussion about a windfall tax to be levied on the utility companies: in a democracy, the government may not impose retroactive legislation. If one were to do so, it would cross the threshold into totalitarianism.

For many years I have been made uneasy by successive chancellors' Budget speeches in which they announce certain taxes which are to be increased with almost immediate effect. At that stage the Finance Bill has yet to be debated in Parliament let alone having received the Royal Assent and so become law. But Labour's proposed windfall tax would be quite

definitely retroactive in application and therefore nothing better than legalised robbery. An earlier Parliament refused to allow King Henry VII to annul his reign to the day before Bosworth so he could indict King Richard III's adherents with treason. Will our next Parliament recognise their same moral obligation to the nation?

Yours faithfully RICHARD THOMAS 18 Kings Avenue Woodford Green, Essex.

Jobs claim wrong

From Mr Roy Albinston Sir, It seems the assertions by the utilities (*The Times*, November 8) that this [windfall] tax would involve further job losses are unjustified.

Better prepare for a life of leisure

From Mr Rainer Burchett Sir, Professor Morris in his article last Friday is reminiscent of old generals who are forever preparing for the next war by planning to perfect the use of the weapons introduced in the previous war.

It seems improbable that the very real problems identified by Professor Morris will be permanently solved by a rate of growth significantly

above the long-term trend rise in productivity. For one thing, setting out on a path of, say 5 per cent p.a. growth will create an investment boom which may well increase the trend rate of productivity growth. One can also question whether, given ultimate limits on raw materials and energy, an ever growing economy is even desirable.

What our economists and social theorists (and, God help us, our politicians) ought to be considering is what sort of economic and social models

are appropriate to a world in which a small minority of the population. The main problems seem to be firstly establishing, and gaining general acceptance for, the principles and mechanisms for distribution of both work and income, and, secondly, educating the population, not so much for work as for a life substantially or completely to be spent in leisure.

Yours faithfully, RAINER BURCHETT, 20 Aldenham Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

What's the point of a yo-yo pound?

From Mr Keith E. Hunter Sir, Roger Bootle (*The Times*, November 5) should know that one currency's revaluation is another's devaluation. During the whole of this year we have been advised that the mark and the franc were grossly overvalued. How then could any chancellor or European finance minister buck a market waiting for the right moment to achieve devaluation of the mark and the franc "by other means"? Those of us who have had to pay management charges to French property service companies in recent years have witnessed events in France that made the franc fort a nonsense.

We might wonder why British exporters need the status of the pound to be reduced to that of a rouble or a rupee, rather than rely on product quality, innovation and good after-sales service etc. Are we to be condemned for ever more to having a yo-yo currency? Yours faithfully, KEITH E. HUNTER, 39 Moorfield Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

Letters to *The Times* Business section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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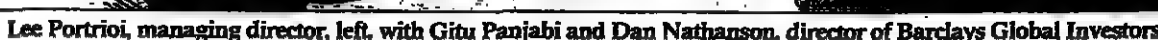
BY CLARE STEWART

Nick Salmon, chief executive, said that the results marked a "a major turn-around from last year". Dr John Parker, chairman, said that the group's rehabilitation programme had been "tough-

There was a marked turnaround in Babcock's materials handling division, where last year's losses, of £1.87 million, were reversed, for a £985,000 profit. The result was largely

Analysts are pencilling in profits of £10 million for the year end. Shares in Babcock moved up 6p to close at 69p.

Terminé page 30



BARCLAYS Global Investors is to capitalise on the growing demand for second-hand life policies with the launch of a new fund (Marianne Curphey writes). It will invest in traded with-profit endowment assurance policies, known in the

The fund, to be known as the BZW Endowment Fund II, aims to raise up to £25 million, and to diversify the risk between policies of differ-

ent life offices, policy terms, and maturity dates. Gita Panjabi, business development manager of Barclays Global Investors, said a total of 135 million shares would be placed and the balance of 115 million shares will be offered

for subscription by the public. If the offer is oversubscribed, the shares will be distributed on a first come first served basis. The issue has been increased by five million shares to 25 million to meet expected demand.

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

Profits from NAB's Australian operations were flat, at A\$1.28 billion, held back too by a rise in bad and doubtful debts. The bank also announced plans to spend about A\$180 million buying back about 13 million of its own shares. The bank has made no secret of its desire to expand through acquisition. It is widely expected to be a player after the relaxation of restrictions on mergers and takeovers that is envisaged next year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Nursing Home Properties reported pre-tax profits of £1.14 million in the year to the end of September against a profit of £140,000 on turnover of £3.51 million, up 326 per cent. Earnings per share were 4.44p, up 91 per cent. A final dividend of 1.25p makes the total dividend 3.7p compared with 0.8p. The 18-month-old company is listed on the AIM market and intends to seek a London Stock Exchange listing next year.

TOPS ESTATES, the town centre retail property specialist, is getting a £20 million cash injection from three institutions that are taking a half share in **Top's Leeds Shopping Plaza**. The plaza is being transferred to a vehicle in which **Orion-vink**, **Lothbury Property Trust** and **United Bank of Kuwait** will subscribe for half the shares. The deal will reduce **Top's** gearing from 170 per cent to 124 per cent. The £64 million plaza is undergoing a redesign. Its rental income is expected to increase from £4 million to £6.4 million over 18 months.

HISCOX, the insurance group, is seeking to buy out its subsidiary, **Hiscox Underwriting**, for about £32 million. **Hiscox Underwriting** sources business from the UK and mainland Europe which has not been traditionally offered to the **Lloyd's** market. During 1995, it introduced £75 million of gross written premium income to four **Hiscox Syndicates**. The deal is intended to raise the profile of **Hiscox Underwriting's** products, and end the requirement for payment of **Lloyd's** standard levies. The acquisition will be effective from January 1.

A SHARP decline in the sales of infectious disease testing equipment pushed Shield Diagnostics, the medical diagnostics company, into loss in the half year to the end of September. The Dundee company blamed the downturn on the decline in sales of its syphilis test and the German Government's retreat on its commitment to test all pregnant women for Chlamydia. Shield reported a pre-tax loss of £291,100 in the period, against a profit of £43,600 previously, on turnover that was flat at £2.73 million.

NEW LONDON CAPITAL, which provides underwriting capacity at Lloyd's of London, is investing £7.3 million in a new venture with Crowe Insurance Group to create a dedicated capital vehicle. New London will take an effective 55 per cent holding in Crowe Corporate Capital, which will have initial net assets of £9.3 million. Crowe Corporate will underwrite capacity for the 1997 year of £38 million across the six syndicates it manages. This will take 1997 underwriting capacity for the enlarged vehicle to £155 million.

VOCALIS, the speech technology company that reported its first interims yesterday, said sales in the half year to the end of September were slightly below expectations but orders in the second half are gaining momentum. The latest order comes from Folec Communications of Singapore, which will distribute Vocalis speech systems in the Asia-Pacific region. The company, floated on the London Stock Exchange at 95p a share in July, reported a \$853,000 pre-tax loss (\$564,000 loss) on turnover of \$629,000, up 153 per cent

HARTERHOUSE Communications, publisher of *What Mortgage* and *What Investment*, is floating on the Alternative Investment Market with an estimated market capitalisation of £5 million. Just over 40 per cent of share capital will be available at 5p per share, with directors and managers holding the remaining shares. Turnover for 1996 was £3.7 million, compared to £2.8 million the previous year; profits were £665,000, up from £336,000.

FLORIDE, the electronics group, is to spend the £14.7 million it will gain from the closure of its pension fund on a bumper acquisition. Keith Hodgkinson, chief executive, said that after having severed its links with its battery-making roots two months ago, the company had decided to use the money to buy a sizeable buy. Chloride traded pre-tax profits of £4.79 million (£3.54 million) for the half year to September 30. An interim dividend of 0.18p (0.133p) is due on January 31.

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Rival schoolgirls run riot after fight over boyfriend

By KATHRYN KNIGHT
AND LIN JENKINS

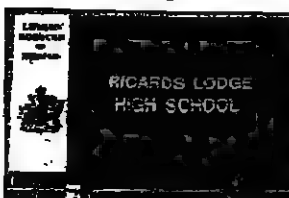
MORE than a hundred girls from rival schools ran riot in an affluent suburb, punching, biting and scratching each other after two girls had an argument over a boyfriend.

The teenagers from two schools in Wimbledon, south-west London, screamed and shouted as they launched into the mêlée outside the railway station after lessons on Thursday. About a hundred boys from local schools joined in to help their girlfriends in what one police officer called the biggest fight between schoolchildren that he had ever seen.

Extra police officers had to be drafted in to break up the brawl, which moved from Wimbledon station to the High Street. An elderly woman, who was hit with her walking stick and members of the public watched as girls aged 12 to 14 fell to the ground. A 13-year-old girl said the argument had started over a local, much-desired boy.

"One was going out with him and the other wanted him," she said. "The boy tried to stop the fight but ended up getting hit by the one of the girls. The two girls started having a go at each other and all their friends piled in. Kids were diving in to split it up but ended up getting into a fight themselves."

Girls from Ursuline High, a convent school say they have long been the target of taunts from pupils at Ricards Lodge.



Rivalry between the schools began in 1982



Ursuline High School

A comprehensive, Ursuline is two places higher than Ricards in the local league table and there has been a history of rivalry ever since a gang fight in 1982, also sparked by a disagreement over the affections of a boy.

Three years ago about 200 teenagers from the two schools rampaged against Wimbledon station, as police reinforcements had to be called in to quell the riot. This time, within minutes, scores of pupils were fighting, with more shouting and pushing. Police reinforcements arrived after the two girls started having a go at each other and all their friends piled in. Kids were diving in to split it up but ended up getting into a fight themselves.

Inspector Bob Ferris of Wimbledon police said: "There were between two and three hundred schoolchildren and it was extremely intimidating. They were extremely

disorderly and it seemed to be a prearranged fight although we have no proof of that. The children revel in their anonymity; they know that when the police arrive they do not know them."

One 15-year-old said the girls from Ricards liked to demonstrate how tough they were. "They are always pushing and shouting and swearing. They think they are so streetwise and we are just posh. We normally just ignore it."

A woman who sells flowers at the station said she had attended Pelham High School in Wimbledon, which has since closed. "Even in those days we used to fight the girls from Ricards. They have always had a reputation for fighting," she said.

A police source later disclosed that police could have arrested many more pupils but they wanted to avoid inflaming the situation.

Yesterday afternoon about half a dozen police officers stood sentry at the front of the station while others checked for signs of violence. Pupils from the two schools were marshalled by teachers and police who ushered them quickly on to their trains.

Head teachers from four schools, including Ursuline and Ricards Lodge, were also invited to a meeting with the Chief Inspector of Wimbledon Police yesterday to talk through the problems and see if the police could help. Merton council said the incident was being investigated.



Benjamin Chambers, left, who "loved the farm", with his twin Christopher

Mother tried in vain to pluck boy from grain pit

A MOTHER described yesterday how she tried to pull one of her eight-year-old twin sons free as he sank to his death in a pit of corn. Kim Chambers wept as she told an inquest that Benjamin vanished into the grain as she tried to pull him out.

Mrs Chambers, 30, said that the identical twins, her daughter Samantha, 10, and stepdaughter Clare, 16, had been repeatedly warned to keep away from machinery and the grain storage area at the family's farm at Bagworth, Leicestershire. On the day of the accident in September, her husband Ivor, 39, had been harvesting while the twins were playing. "I assumed they had gone into the garden or into the fields to play with the ducks and chickens," she said. "I usually give them ten minutes. I was on my way to go to see them when Christopher met me at the door saying Benjamin was trapped in the corn. I ran to the storage area



Mrs Chambers yesterday, dug down with her hands

and I could see Ben on top of the corn. He was about up to his thighs and was sinking. I climbed on to the corn and just grabbed hold of him and tried to pull him out, but I couldn't.

The pressure of the corn moving down was defeating me. He just went down, underneath. Christopher stood at the side and I can

remember screaming at him to switch off the corn drier, which was sucking the corn down. But of course he didn't know how to switch it off."

Mrs Chambers eventually switched off the machine. "I ran back to the corn and pushed my arm down, but he had gone too far down for me to find him. I just couldn't find him." She dug her way into the corn with her hands until the fire brigade arrived, alerted by her daughter. They recovered Benjamin 20 minutes later but he was dead on arrival at hospital. A post-mortem examination showed that he was suffocated by the grain.

Brian Slater, a health and safety inspector, said the drying grain had formed a vortex effect so strong that even a grown man would have been unable to escape. Good standards had been kept by the Chambers and safety arrangements for the children were excellent. The inquest jury at Coalville, Leicestershire, returned a verdict of accidental death.

Move to keep bogus claimants out of court

Benefit fraudsters will be able to avoid prosecution by paying a 30 per cent penalty as well as returning illegally-claimed payments, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said, announcing the Social Security Administration Fraud Bill.

As part of measures to cut benefit fraud, anti-fraud officers are to have greater powers and tax records are to be used to check for false claims. Many of the 25,000 fraudsters expected to be caught are likely to be offered the chance to return illegal claims, together with the fine. This option, intended to reduce court costs, will not be offered to those who have also offended in the past or who have been involved in multiple fraud.

Yard to question Jackal

A Scotland Yard team has flown to Paris to interview Ilich Ramirez Sanchez - nicknamed Carlos the Jackal - over a number of London incidents including the shooting of the Marks & Spencer president Edward Sleaf. Sanchez, arrested in the Sudan two years ago, is awaiting trial for a series of incidents including the bombing of French trains.

Labour man charged with fraud

A former election agent of Peter Mandelson, the Labour MP for Hartlepool, has been charged with fraud. Bernard Carr, 42, former chair of the housing committee in Hartlepool and of the town's Labour Party, will face six counts of deception and one of attempted deception at the town's magistrates' court on December 20.

Death crash coach driver cleared

A driver whose coach crashed in the M5, killing a Royal Marine bandsman, was cleared of careless driving on the judge's instructions at Bristol Crown Court. Judge David Smith said there was a conflict of evidence as to whether the coach's brakes failed when William Manney, 54, from Plymouth, was confronted by a jackknifed car and caravan.

Rape victim attacked on busy road

Drivers stuck in a traffic jam on Wandsworth Road, south London, ignored a 13-year-old boy struggling with an attacker who abducted and raped him, police said. The man involved in Thursday evening's attack was thought to be a vagrant. Detective Inspector Geoff Whitehouse said: "I would have expected someone to stop and help a struggling boy."

Passenger planes came too close

Investigators were trying to work out how a British Airways Boeing 767 with 180 passengers came close to an Air UK Fokker 100 aircraft with 77 passengers at 20,000 ft over south-west Scotland on Thursday evening. Air UK said: "There was no risk as constant visual contact was kept between them and they were at least one mile apart at all times."

Husband jailed for car shunt

Alan Foster, 43, was jailed for six months for ramming his wife's car off the road into a ditch. The incident had started with a row at their joint business at Whitby, North Yorkshire. Yvonne Foster, 53, drove off and her husband followed in his four-wheel drive car and rammed her car off the road. Teeside Crown Court rejected her plea for mercy for her husband.

Drink case judgment reserved

The High Court reserved judgment on a damages claim by Peter Baker, a television sales executive, against a company physician. The medical assessment of Mr Baker's drinking habits by Dr Georges Kaye led to his being turned down for a new job with NBC Europe. Deputy judge Robert Owen, QC, did not indicate when he would give judgment.

Gay-service bishop condemns Church's 'obsession with sex'

THE Church of England bishop who will preach at today's gay service at Southwark cathedral yesterday condemned the "obsession with sex" that was threatening to turn the issue into the most divisive since the ordination of women priests.

In his sermon, the Right Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, will appeal for unity. He is expected to outline

practical ways in which Christians of all sexual persuasions within the church can co-exist peacefully.

The service, condemned by one opponent as "celebrating 25 years of gay sex" on a recent BBC radio broadcast, was the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Gay Christian Movement.

attempt to negate spiritually the effects of a service they believe is celebrating "evil acts".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has received dozens of protest letters and last week distanced himself from the service, organised to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

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Royal Yacht gets ready to sail into Hong Kong sunset

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Yacht *Britannia* is in dry dock for a full maintenance check-up before embarking on her last and most historic journey. She sails to Hong Kong to take part in the official handover of the colony to China on June 30 next year.

HMVS Britannia will play the key role in the celebrations being planned by the Government in consultation with Buckingham Palace, before being decommissioned at the end of next year. After the handover, the Prince of Wales, Chris Patten, the last Governor of the colony, and Major-General Bryan Dutton, the last Commander British Forces Hong Kong, will leave on board *Britannia*.

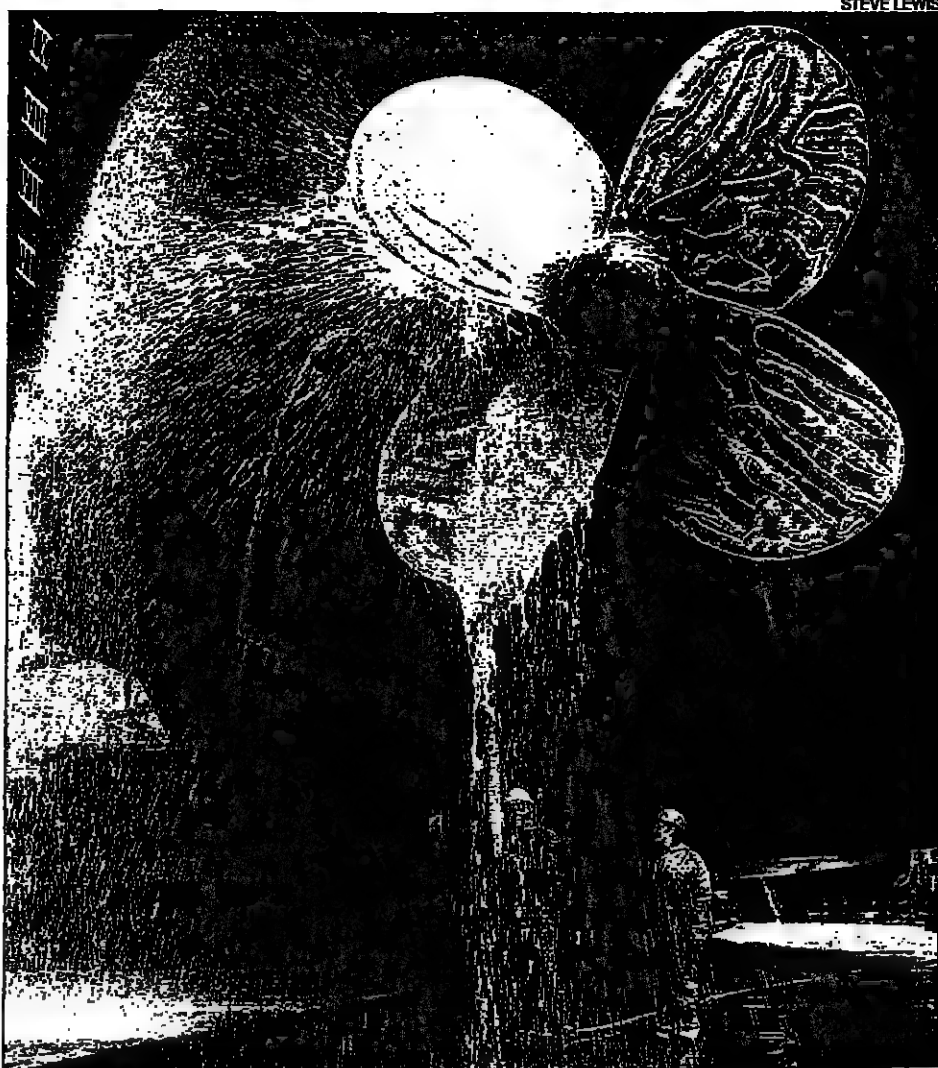
A significant proportion of the Royal Navy will be close to shore or in the region. It is believed that *Britannia*'s main escort will be the Broadsword class Type 22 frigate *HMS Chatham*.

One of the two amphibious assault ships, *HMS Intrepid* and *HMS Fearless*, will also be deployed to Hong Kong to evacuate The Black Watch, the

last British Army regiment to serve in the colony. The regiment is due to take over from The Staffordshire Regiment on February 10 next year. A small number of Gurkhas still serving in the colony will also be evacuated. Other warships in the area will be the aircraft carrier *HMS Illustrious* and escort ships which by then will have completed a Far East deployment called Ocean Wave.

Britannia will remain in dry dock having every part checked and cleaned for her final voyage, which will be commanded by Commodore Anthony Morrow. A navy spokeswoman at Portsmouth said: "*Britannia* is having her annual, and last, maintenance."

After her visit to Hong Kong, *Britannia* will sail back to Portsmouth, arriving in August. She is expected to carry out routine royal duties in the latter part of the year. The yacht's future after decommissioning remains uncertain. Ministers have yet to make a decision.



One of *Britannia*'s propellers being hosed down in dry dock in Portsmouth

Hospital calls halt to operations not paid for by fundholders

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SURGEONS at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital have been told not to carry out routine operations unless the patient's GP is a fundholder.

Some 450 people with "non-urgent" conditions have been put on a "suspended waiting list" until next April. Documents leaked to *The Times* disclose that what East Norfolk Health Authority describes as "slowing the pace of work currently being undertaken" means bringing routine general surgery to a stop.

An internal memorandum tells hospital staff to halt non-urgent treatments for people waiting since the start of the financial year. They include patients with hernias, varicose veins and skin cysts.

"Any patients who are in a routine category on the waiting list and were put there after the 23rd April 1996 will now be put on a suspended waiting list until the 31st March, 1997," says the memorandum, which is dated Octo-

ber 25, halfway through the financial year. In the past, health authorities have run out of money towards April.

A brief from Malcolm Stamp, chief executive of Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust, dated October 16, tells staff: "The money the trust receives each year is received from the contracts it secures with purchasers and GP fundholders — known as 'contract income'. One of the main sources of contract income to the trust is East Norfolk Health Authority, which is now discussing with the trust ways of slowing the pace of work currently being undertaken."

The hospital serves a population of 500,000. Nearly half have fundholding GPs, who handle their own budgets and can buy operations from the NHS or private hospitals. The rest of the population have services bought for them by the health authority, which paid in bulk for 12,000 pa-

tients to receive general surgery this year. Because of unexpectedly high demand, that figure is about to be reached.

The NHS Trust Federation said this was an example of the crisis faced by the health service because of a cash shortage this year.

Jennifer Dixon, health policy analyst at the King's Fund, a research organisation, said it was an example of the "efficiency trap" created by the internal market. "If the hospital is super-efficient, if it does masses of operations very quickly, then your money runs out much more quickly," she said.

Hospitals are under orders from the Health Department to improve efficiency by performing 3 per cent more work for the same money each year. Commenting on the Norfolk situation, the department said: "They are not urgent cases and will receive treatment within 12 months."



Action Man: barred for inciting violence

Co-op is no-man's land for Action Man

By STEPHEN FARRELL

ACTION MAN found himself up against an implacable new enemy yesterday: the Co-op. Amid concern over the effects of toy weapons, the store chain is ending the sale of 131 products which not only include toy swords and Robin Hood archery sets, but also the £7.99 model which is Britain's sixth best-selling toys. Other shops, such as Hamleys and Selfridges have banned toy guns and weapons, but neither has forbidden Action Man.

The decision comes, as the latest 12in model, the lawman Crimebuster, is expected to feature prominently in the £1.59 billion Christmas toy market. The manufacturer Hasbro pointed out that the Co-op had less than 1 per cent of the market. A spokeswoman added: "The toy is no longer a military figure. The modern Action Man is a cross

between Indiana Jones and James Bond. He is an adventure figure."

Action Man first invaded Britain 30 years ago. His tour of duty seemed to have expired when he was withdrawn in 1984, but he was called up again after eight years and now boasts an annual turnover of £48 million. There have been more than 350 manifestations.

Geoff Harper, National Living Stores Executive for Co-operative Retail Services, said banned toys would be replaced with educational and learning products in their 14 Living and CRS stores.

He said: "In the light of Dunblane we have made a decision to stop selling toys which may be perceived to represent, or incite, violence. It is not political correctness. The society has always had a conscience."

Skinned Alive, Clubbed to Death, or Shot and Left to Die in Agony. A Sure Sign That Spring is in the Air Again.

Last spring over 268,000* harp and hooded seals were killed in Canada. Next spring, some Canadians want to kill up to 400,000*. About three quarters of these are likely to be baby seal pups. Days or weeks old. A cull of grey seals has also been recommended.

All of these animals will be clubbed to death or shot. Sadly, many don't die after the first blow or bullet. Recent evidence indicates some will be skinned alive for their coats. Many more will be wounded and left to die a slow and agonizing death under the ice.

Key decisions will be made in the next few weeks, so your help is vital. Please help us end this disgusting cruelty.

S.O.S. Sign On for Seals - add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack.

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*Source: Environment Canada, "Seal Report", Ottawa and St. John's, Canada, May 21, 1996. *Source: John Elrod, Canadian Environmental Defenders Alliance, interviewed on CBC-TV News, November 11, 1996.



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■ POP 1

Def Leppard proved to the Dublin crowd only that their best years are behind them



■ POP 2

...and the support band, Terrorvision, never turned up — but they did send their T-shirts

THE ARTS



■ POP 3

Michelle Shocked celebrates her 'anti-slavery' victory over her former record company



■ POP 4

For that authentic 'morning after' lyricism, give me the Aloo! every time, says Caitlin Moran

Dog-eared cats

"DON'T forget us, and we won't forget you," Joe Elliott told the audience at the Point towards the end of Def Leppard's first Dublin show in four years. Sadly, the words seemed more like a desperate plea than a vow of solidarity, and contained the painful truth about the veteran soft-metal gurus: their best years are behind them.

But at least they turned up. The atrocious weather prevented the scheduled support band, Terrorvision, from making it — but, bizarrely, their T-shirts were still on sale in the foyer.

Def Leppard's professed desire to be taken as seriously as the likes of R.E.M. and U2 cannot be countenanced until they earn rather than simply demand credibility. Appearing in standard rock'n'roll garb — black leather trousers, a white vest and, er, a cardigan — Elliott exhumed one staid stadium rock cliché after another without ever looking to breathe new life into them.

"We're here to rock your asses off," he announced at one point, completely devoid of irony, and

before long he was off punching the air again while yet another choreographed guitar solo took shape in front of the Marshall amps.

Even if we accept the limitations of this traditionalist approach — as the band itself do, all too readily — there's still no getting away from the fact that their audience increasingly does not. A sparse attendance

inevitably resulted in a devastating lack of atmosphere, and it was always going to be an uphill struggle to whip up the necessary frenzy. An acoustic interlude of more than one song would have been advisable.

That said, the crowd was appreciative of the group's efforts. Newer material from the recent *Slang* album was given an airing, but inevitably it was the bankable hits such as *Animal*, *Photograph* and *Armageddon* that were most rousing. After a gutsy *Pour Some Sugar On Me*, the calls for an encore were heartfelt. But, to be brutally honest, this was an all-too-forgettable show.

Def Leppard
Dublin

NICK KELLY

Marginal response

ONE of Britain's most cultured singer-songwriters returns to London and the Jazz Café is markedly under-attended for the occasion. One hardly knows whether to smile at the opportunity to catch up with Clive Gregson or to cry at such a lukewarm response.

In fine form whatever the turnout, Gregson himself has gone for the former option. A veteran of the post-punk music scene of the late Seventies with his rock group Any Trouble, he spent the Eighties reshaping himself into a respected, folk-inclined acoustic performer.

He now resides in Nashville, and it is tempting to say that it was this country's marginalisation of such artists that drove him away. His return for a 19-date solo tour marks the release of his latest album for Demon, *I Love This Town*, another cluster of poignant commentaries on love and loss. The album was the framework for

a warming evening, with upbeat pieces of rock'n'roll whimsy such as *Geography* and *Secondhand Car* conveyed just as well on acoustic guitar as the delicate and love-lorn *Things I Didn't Do* and *Ramshackle Road*. Gregson's unforced, self-effacing humour was

working well too, as he introduced the new album's *Love Casts A Long Shadow* as "a song I wrote for The Beatles... six months ago". A cover of Take That's *Back For Good* was an unexpected pleasure, as was *Fred Astaire*, one of a number of new Gregson songs.

And for those of us who fought in the power-pop wars in the Eighties, it was a delight to hear him distill Any Trouble's *All The Time in the World*, and, as encores, *Touch and Go* and their old rallying call, *Open Fire*. He may work in the margins, but Gregson's contribution continues to fill the page.

Clive Gregson
Jazz Café, NW1

PAUL SEXTON

Where has Michelle Shocked been lately? Playing star wars, she tells Nigel Williamson

Look who's back in charge



Michelle Shocked: back in Britain and back in full control of her music

Clashes between the corporate and the creative have long been a part of the music industry. Few such struggles, however, have been more bitter than the one involving Michelle Shocked. For almost four years, Mercury, the company to which the American singer was contracted, refused even to speak to her. Then she issued a law suit citing the 13th amendment to the American Constitution, the one which abolished "slavery and involuntary servitude". Shocked has just won both the case and complete control over her career and artistic direction.

"People might say I'm difficult, but did you ever hear anyone describe a label as difficult?" she says. "By nature, artists should challenge. When they call you difficult it is a reflection of the imbalance of power."

"The corporate culture is based on intimidation. They had very narrow expectations of what I should do. It never occurred to me that business people and lawyers could try to define art."

After releasing three successful albums of witty, intelligent songs between 1988 and 1992, songs that drew deeply on the folk traditions of American music, Shocked decided she wanted to do something different. "Actually I planned to have a nervous breakdown and from the ashes of that find my true voice," she says. "Then I proposed a funky rhythm and blues album."

The record company president asked for an acoustic album. Shocked refused: her existing contract purportedly gave her control over artistic content. Compromises were made. Shocked submitted a modified proposal and was all ready to record a new album in late 1992 — when

she was told that the studio would not allow her in. The record company was still not happy and would not pay for the studio time. She was effectively being prevented from recording, but at the same time the company would not allow her to sign for anyone else.

She spent the next three years touring — "keeping in touch with my audience" — and then her lawyers hit upon the idea of using the anti-slavery amendment. Shocked employed Leigh Steinberg, one of the biggest names in

means that the songs become a celebration of the human spirit, showing the extraordinary qualities of ordinary people when put under almost intolerable pressure. "There's a very frail human being telling these stories and there are melodramatic metaphors to talk about my own frustration," she says.

Shocked, a name she adopted when she ran away from her Mormon parents at 15, refuses to exult over her legal success. "I could call this the victory tour and pose as the David who conquered Goliath. But that is not what the heart and the soul are about. Now I'm free I just want to move on."

She thinks, however, that her case means "a sea change" in which artists everywhere are going to demand greater control over their intellectual property.

Shocked is not only magnanimous in victory, but artistic freedom has made her more relaxed about other areas of her life. She still burns with integrity, but can now talk about her strange upbringing more openly than for years. She admits that she still has not come to terms with being raised by "a wild bunch of Mormons", but is at an age where she is thinking about having children herself. "That means for the first time I can understand the viewpoint of the 15-year-old girl I was and that of my mother who was 34 when I left. Having kids means you have a little bit of spiritual real estate, you've invested in the destiny of the planet."

At this rate she might even have to change her name again — although Michelle Mellowed doesn't have quite the same ring.

Kind Hearted Woman is released by BMG. Michelle Shocked plays Shepherds Bush Empire on Monday

"I could call this the victory tour"

American law who had helped to bring about the free agency of sports stars. The case potentially had huge repercussions and other labels started telling Mercury that it could not be allowed to reach court. In the settlement Shocked was freed and has signed to a more sympathetic label.

The result is a staggeringly fine new album, *Kind Hearted Woman*, full of desperately moving songs about hard-luck characters from the American backwoods. Several reviewers have described it as bleak, but they have missed the point. True, the stories are often harrowing — about a stillborn child, a hit-and-run killing, a boy who watches his father struck by lightning. But, in the best Steinbeck tradition of American story-telling, Shocked's empathy for these characters

Tail-end to a mad night

feel sad or sick, but afterwards you feel very alive." Dean enthuses. "And minor-chord records are intensely personal." Ricky puts in, "You can't really share a hugely sad record with anyone else. It has to be just you, your headphones and the Repeat button."

The Aloo's new single, *One Night Stand*, demands that you listen to it alone, strapped into headphones and hunched over the "Repeat" button all night. It brings to mind the



CAITLIN MORAN

scene in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* when Richard Dreyfuss is sucked up, through a tunnel of white light, into the glittering gold interior of the mothership. It's very big, and verging on the edge of collapse. The 32-piece orchestra adds that *Day in the Life* vibe of chaotic, speeding horror, and the lyrics see Ricky wailing that he "Feels nothing at all/I feel no shame... and, er, what was her name?"

Ricky walked out on his wife and two children for a while last year, and *One Night Stand* sums up the dizzy sickness and fear a stranger's bed arouses. Radio 1 is playing it like mad at the moment, and whatever's played either side of it sounds tinny and cheap and entirely crushable.

"The one thing we all agree on is that we can't sound like anyone else," Dean says, which is a prime band cliché, but also true in the Aloo's case. "We'll play a track over and over again, and really live with it, and if it reminds us of anyone else we'll scrap it."

The Aloo are moving into a league that contains the Aloo and no one else. The next album promises to be astonishing. In the meantime, there's the magnificence of *One Night Stand* and *Sinking* to keep us going.

One Night Stand is released on East West Records on Monday. Sinking is still available

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POP 5

Against the odds, Prince's triple-CD epic, *Emancipation*, proves sharp, inventive and vital



POP 6

Chris Rea quaintly serenades the motor-racing world in tandem with Shirley Bassey on *La Passione*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 7

Ghastly gangsta rap is purveyed shamelessly and menacingly by Snoop Doggy Dogg on *Tha Doggfather*



POP 8

Mike Henderson evokes the era of hard-hittin' blues on his rollicking *First Blood*



He sings, he plays, he wears a joke beard made out of caviar — is there no end to Prince's talents?

With one mighty LP, the Slave was free

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair salutes the artist recently known as duff on his three-hour-long return to superstar form

PRINCE
Emancipation
(NPG/EMI 7243 8 549820; three-CDs £19.99)
HE MAY be the most prolific superstar in the history of pop, but Prince enters a new phase of his career with his first record for EMI, his stock is at a low ebb. His previous album, *Chaos and Disorder*, a desultory kiss-off to his former record company, has sold fewer than 40,000 copies in Britain, a dismal result for an artist of his stature.

As public interest has waned, so the media has tired of pandering to the little man's identity crises and crass promotional ploys. Not the best moment then, you would think, to chance his arm with a grandiose triple CD, ominously titled *Emancipation* and promising "three hours of love, sex and liberty". Frankly, it looks as if he's been given enough rope to hang himself with slack to spare.

But, against the odds, slack is one thing this album is not. Gone for the most part is the empty braggadocio and slapdash production that have marred his output in recent years. Instead, along with the complex horn parts, barbershop soul harmonies and multiple layers of percussive activity, there is a return to the inventive vitality that used to be taken for granted.

There are sultry, pleading ballads, such as *Soul Sanctuary* and *Saviour*, aptly named dance tracks, notably a sensational electro-funk groove called *New World*, affectionate cover versions of hits by the Stylistics (*By Your Side*), the Deftones (*La, La, La Means I Love U*) and Joan Osborne (*One of Us*), and a handful of badass rap tracks, the heaviest being *Face Down*.

While musically there is little he

has not tackled before, there are some stunning moments, as on *Slave*, where he harnesses a murky drumbeat to a 1990s-style cottonfield chant of "They just keep trying to break my heart". And there are signs of a growing maturity in his lyrics. *Let's Have A Baby* marks the first time he has looked beyond the mechanics to the consequences of sex, and, despite the self-pitying tone of *White Mansion* and *Damned If I Do*, they are two of several songs that offer an honest reflection of events in his life, instead of the usual voyeuristic fantasies.

Although it is a lot to swallow, *Emancipation* is anything but the self-indulgent mess we might have expected. Never mind the quantity, enjoy the depth.

CHRIS REA

La Passione
(East West 0630-1695 £13.99)
A COMPLETE departure from the adult-orientated rock for which Chris Rea is known, *La Passione* is a quaintly orchestrated film score,

which tells the semi-autobiographical tale of a young boy enchanted by the glamorous world of motor racing. Rea's guitar is left at home and his lugubrious drawl becomes a lugubrious croon, assisted by the more forceful tones of Shirley Bassey on *Shirley do you own a Ferrari?* and *Disco La Passione*.

An album that conjures up images of grainy black-and-white movies on Sunday afternoon TV, the idea works thanks to Rea's obvious and unswerving devotion to his theme, and the refreshing lack of ironic pretensions so frequently associated with latterday excursions into this kind of music.

SNOOP DOGGY DOGG

Tha Doggfather
(Death Row/Interscope INTD-90038 £13.49)
DEDICATED "in loving memory" of rap star Tupac Shakur, shot dead in September, *Tha Doggfather* is another loathsome celebration of the black American thug lifestyle set to a cool, shuffling hip hop beat. Dogg delivers his

casual exhortations to violence in a thin, weaselly voice that only seems to underpin the menace in his heart. The chilling effect is compounded by audio verité snippets of news reportage of his own murder trial, and the obligatory gunshot sounds, something of a gangsta rap cliché these days.

It would be reassuring to think that this was all an immature, macho fantasy, but events suggest otherwise. If there is no longer any dividing line between art and reality, isn't it about time people like Dogg, with all his influence, tried to change both for the better?

MIKE HENDERSON

THE BLUEBLOODS

First Blood
(Dead Reckoning/BMG £13.49)
ALTHOUGH based in Nashville, where he has a day job playing studio sessions with the likes of Emmylou Harris, John Hiatt and Hank Williams Jr, the singer and guitarist Mike Henderson is clearly a blues disciple at heart.

Recorded "live in the studio" over just two days, *First Blood* recalls the 1960s heyday of white boys with electric blues guitars: John Mayall's Bluesbreakers with Eric Clapton, Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac, the first Chicken Shack album and vintage Johnny Winter all spring to mind.

Of course, that was then and this is now, and it has all been done a million times since then. But there is still a timeless magic that informs these educated, hard-hitting versions of songs by Otis Spann (*Bloody Murder*), Howlin' Wolf (*How Many More Years*), Elmore James (*Mean Mistreater*), Hound Dog Taylor (*Give Me Back My Wig*) and others.

To order these albums, see coupon below left

TOP TEN ALBUMS

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| 4 | Blue is the Colour | Beautiful South (Goli Discs) |
| 5 | Around the World — the Journey So Far | East 17 (London) |
| 6 | A Different Beat | Boyzone (Polygram) |
| 7 | Falling Into You | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 8 | Christmas Party | Smurfs (EMI TV) |
| 9 | If We Fall In Love Tonight | Rod Stewart (Warner Bros) |
| 10 | The Final | Fine Young Cannibals (FFRR) |

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Who put the dip in the dipdiddidip?

Vocal group music, or doo wop, the name it was given for the non-sense "doo wop, doo wop" vocal choruses of hundreds of records, is like baseball, a particularly American institution that never "appeared" to travel that well.

Based on the four-part harmonies created by groups such as the Ink Spots and the Mills Brothers in the 1930s and 1940s, but given a rhythm and blues and sometimes gospel tinge, it proved "highly" popular with black audiences in America before crossing over into the pop charts with groups like the Platters and the Drifters. It also inspired a generation of white groups such as Dion and the Belmonts and the Four Seasons.

Like many homegrown and regional styles of American popular music it all came crashing down after the arrival of the Beatles, although by that time many of the black groups were embracing the

more up-to-date rhythms of soul music.

Dead, then, but not forgotten. In the years since, the interest in doo wop has increased not only in America but, surprisingly, in Europe.

For those new to the genre, the best place to start is the recently released *Doo Wop Box 2* (Rhino R2/R4 72507), a four-CD, 101-track travel through the best of the music, which follows on from the pioneering *Box 1* issued a few years back. It starts with the former, gospel group, the Drifters, tackling *My Reverie* (which bears the intriguing composer credit of Larry Clinton/Claude Debussy) from 1951 and ends with the Italian/American group the Classics and Tull Thien, a Top 20 hit in America in 1963.

In between there is every-

thing from the original Leiber and Stoller hit, *Smoochy Joe's Cafe*, by the Robins, the falsetto and catchy *Peanuts* by Little Joe & the Thrillers and perhaps the best ever pop version of *Stormy Weather* by the Chicago group, the Spaniels.

For those who want to delve further, Deejay Records, a German company, has unleashed two volumes of Philadelphia doo wop: *Swan Masters Vol 1* (DJ-CD 53038) and *Vol 2* (DJ-CD 53039) which includes tracks like *Amazon* and *Coyotes* by the Dreamlovers, a group whose biggest claim to fame was that they sang behind Chubby Checker on the million-selling *The Twist* — but never got the credit for it.

Meanwhile, in Britain the doo wop torch is held firmly by Ace Records, whose latest offering, *Vocal Groups Coast to Coast* (Ace CDCHD 594) includes some rarely heard early tracks by the New York groups, the Mello Moods and the Cabineers, as well as some New Orleans and Los Angeles cuts including the Sonny Bono-penned *Can It Be*, by the Tians.



The fabulous Ink Spots, spiritual fathers of doo wop

JOHN CLARKE

Coterie of many colours

THE Rare Music Club is the brainchild of pianist Keith Tippett, its mission to combine contemporary compositions, traditional folk music and freely improvised jazz, and explore the cross-currents between them. Although there have been long gaps between concerts, its renaissance at the Arncliffe was marked by some exceptional playing and the premier of a new jazz suite for octet by saxophonist Paul Dunnall.

One effect of the Club's existence is that it has created audiences that are open-minded enough to concentrate intently across genres. "You can hear the audience listening," said Andrew Ball, the classical pianist who opened the programme with some brief fragments by Howard Skempton, before tackling Thomas Armstrong's *The Dance Maze*, a rugged rhythmic landscape of uncompromising modernism that prepared the ground for the contemplation of Vassily Lobanov's *Ode to Grass*.

Ball created an atmosphere of quiet intimacy in the large performance space and effec-

JAZZ CLUB
Rare Music Club
Arncliffe, Bristol

ively prepared his audience for the acoustic folk music of Martin Carthy, Chris Wood and Roger Wilson. This trio first worked together seven years ago, but has only recently reassembled, bringing Carthy's rich knowledge of traditional song into conjunction with Wilson and Wood's exploration of the folk and morris dance instrumental repertoire.

Their songs flow seamlessly from one to another, and lyrics about long-ago arranged marriages, drowning miller's daughters and gibbets, all decked out in minor keys, maintained the rapport between performer and audience established by Ball, despite a radical difference in style.

The loud, jagged, bombast that opened Dunnall's *Desire and Liberation* suite threatened to destroy the

mood. With reeds and brass at full stretch thrashing drums from Tony Levin and an amplified howl from Paul Rogers' bass, the contrast was startling. An impassioned solo from Dunnall and an angular trombone duo from Annie Whitehead and Chris Bridges initially suggested that the compositional element was a thin framework for extended free improvisation.

Then, after a bass solo of great skill and complexity, there was a dramatic change. The brass and reeds intoned like a gospel choir. Skip Liddington preached trumpet solo over the top, before the horns fell back and Tippett produced a magnificent piano solo, mixing techniques, but never losing the gospel feeling.

The suite marks Dunnall's arrival as a band leader and composer in his own right, and the platform of the Rare Music Club emphasised his connections to a wide range of currents in contemporary music.

ALYN SHIPTON

Tunes off the screen

JAZZ ALBUMS

The central duo is joined by a rhythm section for some selections, and by violinist Johnny "Ice" Taylor on the Emidy pieces. But it is Sheppard's ability to conjure up haunting, evocative tenor sounds, buoyed by Lodder's facility in choosing the precise keyboard texture to showcase them, that makes this album so unequivocally listenable.

JACK WALRATH AND HARD CORPS
Journey, Man!
(Evidence ECD 22150-2)
THE nine compositions by the American trumpeter Jack

Walrath on this passionate but informal-sounding album reflect not only his eclectic listening — he possesses 20,000 albums ranging from Albinoni to Cage and the OJB to Ornette — but also his experience with leaders as diverse as Ray Charles and Mural Richard Abrams.

The sextet assembled here — New York's finest saxophonist Craig Handy and Bobby Watson, pianist Kenny Drew Jr, bassist Ray Drummond and drummer Victor Lewis — is given its head throughout and responds magnificently, with Watson in particular contributing a number of blistering solo.

Many of Walrath's pieces are clearly indebted, particularly in their mood and tempo changes, to those of his most famous employer, Charles Mingus. But overall this is an intensely personal album packed with gutsy, right originals played by all concerned with great verve.

CHRIS PARKER

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VISUAL ART
Horsham pays homage to Shelley, its most famous son, by inaugurating a new fountain



MUSIC
At the Royal Concert, Daniele Gatti makes an auspicious start to his new life with the RPO

PUBLIC ART: Judith Chernaik on a stunning new memorial fountain in Sussex

Shelley's glittering prize

Dust to the dust! but the pure spirit shall flow back to the burning fountain whence it came...

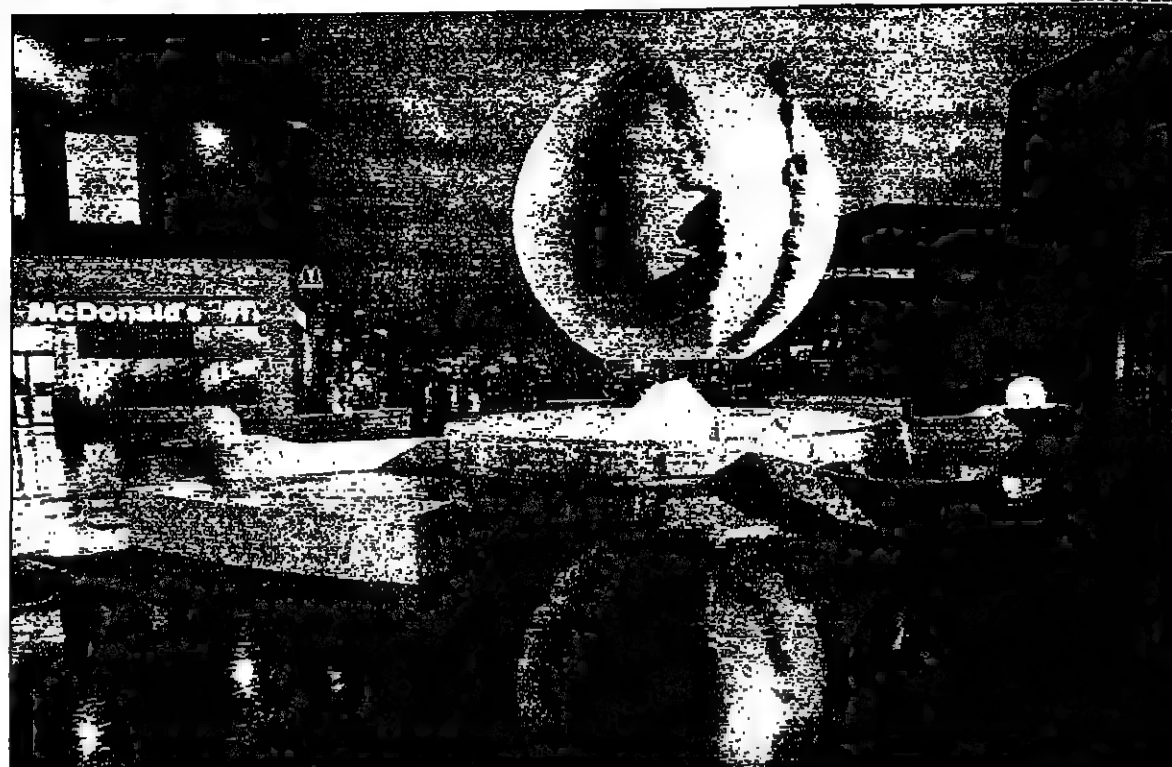
So Shelley wrote of Keats in *Adonais*. Now Shelley's spirit, too, has been returned to its place of birth (the ancient Sussex market town of Horsham) in the form of water, six and a half tons of it, circulating through an astonishing fountain sculpture by Angela Conner called *Rising Universe*.

Dominating the Shelley fountain is a giant translucent fibreglass sphere encased in a lava-like crust that curls back jaggedly from the surface below the sphere, water channels feed east, west, north and south into stone basins on which four "satellite" spheres dance and twirl. The mysterious opening lines of Shelley's *Mont Blanc* are inscribed on the plinth:

*The everlasting universe of things
Flows through the mind, and rolls
Its rapid waters,
Now dark — now glittering — now
Reflecting gloom —
Now lending splendour, where from
secret springs
The source of human thought its
Tribute brings
Of waters...*

It is hard to imagine a more appropriate memorial for a poet whose imagery is full of rivers, fountains, seas and natural cycles, and who celebrated above all man's power to imagine and therefore to change his world.

The entire town of Horsham turned out on a freezing November night for the inauguration. The journalist Paul Foot declared Shelley's *Mask of Anarchy*, exhorting the people of England to avenge the Peterloo massacre: "Rise like lions after slumber! In unvanquishable number! Shake your chains to earth like dew! Ye are many, they are few." As the groomed pupils of Christ's Hospital played a brass fanfare, the chairman of the Fountain Society cut cords holding up four green silk banners. The great sphere released a few hesitant rivulets and descended



Angela Conner's Shelley Fountain in Horsham is grand in scale, simple in form and open to sky and public

slowly on its column. Water flowed, stopped, flowed again, gushed forth ("I know several ladies of Horsham who could do better," said a retired school teacher afterwards at the pub). The water cycle finished to a symphonic interlude by Martyn Harry, a local composer: the sphere rose halfway up its column, and the assembled multitudes burst into applause. Fireworks scattered a flock of starlings. The public drifted back to their cars and comfortable homes. For Horsham enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the country, low unemployment, excellent schools, and a model low-income housing policy.

The background is instructive. Four years ago, Sainsbury's won its battle to

site a new superstore smack in the centre of town; in return, under its 1 per cent "Arts for All" policy, the company gave more than £100,000 to the district council for a work of public art. After much debate, the council agreed to commission a memorial to the town's most famous son.

Shelley was the least provincial of poets, and there are few references to his home or early childhood in his works. But the Shelley Fountain has an importance far beyond its local connections. It is a model of its kind, a reminder of the past which is itself wonderfully evocative. As a memorial it is in strongest possible contrast to the 1893 Shelley

memorial in Oxford: a marble effigy of a naked drowned youth, enshrined in a sanctum of University College: quasi-religious homage to the poet expelled for writing *The Necessity of Atheism*.

The Horsham fountain is grand in scale, simple in form, open to the sky, and — most important — open to the public. The fountain should enter public life as a meeting place and a talking point, a source of pleasure and pride for generations — and it may well exert a beneficial influence for change. One imagines the non-lit McDonald's and the other undistinguished buildings flanking the square disappearing under the serene influence of flowing water and spinning wheels. Public art of this stature is a rare thing.

A stylish renaissance

THE fortunes of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra have been somewhat mixed over recent years, to say the least. Now under new management, and with the inspiring Daniele Gatti at the helm, the orchestra is playing with a new confidence that bodes well for the future.

The annual Royal Concert at the Albert Hall in aid of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and other musical charities, and attended by the Queen, was the occasion for some stylish playing. The first half offered a taut, dramatic account of Beethoven's *Coriolan*

Overture, followed by a similarly impressive one of the same composer's *Emperor Concerto*. Rhythms were muscular, yet supple enough to allow the soloist, Stephen Kovacevich, to rhapsodise in the more reflective passages.

After the interval, Ian Wallace outlined the work of the fund and suggested we make the informative programme our bedtime reading. That proved to be good advice, since

the darkened auditorium made it impossible to see even titles of pieces, let alone the text of Richard Rodney Bennett's *Sonnet Sequence*. But everything seemed to be in order, and both the solos of the

three Shakespearean sonnets concerned with the passing of time, and inspiring an eloquent score. Adrian Thompson was the sensitive tenor soloist, alert to the shifting emotions and underlying fragility of the music.

From the balcony seat I was allocated, it was not easy to determine matters of balance in Richard Strauss's *Don Juan*. But everything seemed to be in order, and both the solos of the

tender central episode and the succulent string textures of the latter section were excellently realised.

Strauss's *Fanfare for Shostakovich* was also given a rousing performance by the massed brass players of the Royal Military School of Music and the Royal Artillery Band, but it was the other Strauss, Johann II, whose *Die Fledermaus* overture ended the programme: a deliciously phrased reading, with lilting rubato and accompaniment figures lightly touched in.

BARRY MILLINGTON

LONDON

A CELEBRATION OF IRA GERSHWIN Larry Adler, Sarah Brightman and Michael Praed are among the musical theatrical stars celebrating the centenary of the birth of the great American tycoon. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 0171 586 0212. Sunday, 8pm, \$9.

AUDITION MUSICIAN 1996 CONCERTO FINAL The 10th anniversary of the national competition for 15- to 18-year-old instrumentalists is celebrated by the grand finale of the young talents each playing a concerto performance with the London Philharmonic. The conductor is Howard Shelley. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 0171 480 3433. Tomorrow, 7pm.

SLIMY ON THE SOUTH BANK Asian-Jewish culture is celebrated with a day of klezmer and song from Vienna. Highlights include a live band of klezmer musicians, stand-up comedy from David Hirsch and a concert by the Vienna Boys Choir. Klezmer, at the Victoria Hall, there will be a rare chance to hear a recital by the Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini, who will be playing last of Beethoven's sonatas. South Bank, SE1 0171 590 4242. Sunday, various times and venues.

ELSEWHERE
ALDEBURGH The first of our late autumn concerts at the Aldeburgh Music Festival will be held this weekend before the

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxley

concert hall closes for a three-month refurbishment. Tomorrow (7.30pm), Alexander Ingram will conduct the British-Polish Orchestra in Schubert's *Overture in D* and Bruckner's *Second Symphony*. Alison Hayman will play Mozart's sparkling *Piano Concerto* on Sunday (Ljubljana Hall, 3pm), the five finalists of the British-Polish Orchestra Competition will play extracts from their chosen concertos before a panel of judges. The remaining concerts are on November 29 and December 1. *Benjamin Britten's* *War Requiem* will be performed at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on November 29 and December 1. *Benjamin Britten's* *War Requiem* will be performed at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on November 29 and December 1.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN Edward Bond's new play, with Karl Johnson and John Light playing father and son corporate leaders in a City, runs at the Royal Court, London, until 23rd. *Company of Men*, Royal Court, London, until 23rd.

A DOLL'S HOUSE Janet McTeer stars the role of Nora, in the production of *A Doll's House* at the Royal Court, London, until 23rd.

POOL FOR LOVE Ian Brown directs Barry Lynch and Lorraine Ashbourne in Sam Shepard's fierce drama of love on the edge of the Mojave desert. With Gavin Gargner. *Pool for Love*, Royal Court, London, until 23rd.

CINEMA GUIDE

NEW RELEASES
AMERICAN BUFFALO (15) A powerful adaptation of David Mamet's play about small-time hunters, with Kevin Kline and Dennis Franz. Director, Michael Dorn. *American Buffalo*, Metro, 0171-437 0787.

GABRIEL Beautiful, poetic Iranian film about nomadic carpet weavers. Director, Mohsen Makhmalbaf. *Gabriel*, ICA, 0171-630 3647.

KANAKIS CITY (15) Too much action in Robert Altman's tale of crime and jazz in 1930s Kansas City. With Dennis Quaid, Jason Leigh, Miranda Richardson and Harry Belafonte. *Kanakis City*, Channel 4, 0171-630 3647.

THE FIRST WIVES (15) Comedy about the lives of the first wives of the British Prime Ministers. With Judi Dench, Helen Mirren, and others. *The First Wives*, Channel 4, 0171-630 3647.

THE FIRST WIVES (15) Comedy about the lives of the first wives of the British Prime Ministers. With Judi Dench, Helen Mirren, and others. *The First Wives*, Channel 4, 0171-630 3647.

ART GALLERIES

ANNE REDPATH Anne Redpath, 17 Fleet Way, NW3 0JH, 0171-586 5482.

LEVEY GALLERY 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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RUGBY UNION

Longer league life may deny players best of both codes

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT BEGAN with the gasps that went around Twickenham. To rugby league followers there for the Middlesex Sevens, it was no more than they expected or were used to seeing from Wigan. Rugby union glimpsed the future in Henry Paul, Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson, Martin Offiah and most notably, Va'ega Tuigamala, who trampled over his now fellow Wasps in the final.

The possibilities seen by several English club coaches that day last May have sometimes been thrillingly realised in the past two months. It speaks volumes for the craft and professionalism in league that Robinson, Connolly and the Paul brothers, Henry and Robbie, have made such an impact on a foreign field. Now, those dabbling in both codes are apparently faced with a choice.

Rugby league's flaw this year was a shortage of fixtures. That problem is addressed by a season starting with the Challenge Cup next February and ending in mid-November with the last of the touring Australians' three matches against Great Britain. It effectively closes the window of opportunity on league players taking a business holiday in union, unless they desire a permanent switch.

Nigel Melville, Wasps' director of rugby, believes individuals must eventually commit themselves to one game.

"Tuigamala is contracted to Wigan for now, but I'd be lying if I said we wouldn't want him permanently," he said. "The league players return to their clubs in January and the extended Super League will limit their chances in union next season. When they come out of contract, it's another matter."

Tuigamala has rediscovered his love of union after his recent Western Samoa debut, but many of the talents he now has he owes to league and he is reluctant to give up his adopted game. As much as Robbie Paul, too, is enjoying his well-paid stint at Harlequins away from Bradford Bulls, his presence this week in Sydney at the launch of the ambitious 22-team world rugby league club championship, to be held

between June and October next year, indicated where his priorities lie.

Not that Paul would necessarily refuse another spell in union. "Although I'd be happy to return to Bradford, it is not satisfying leaving a job half done," he said. "It's been an eye-opener playing union for the first time when the game is exploding. If the chance arrived again, I'd take it, but league is the game I grew up with and the world club championship is the chance to take league to a new dimension."

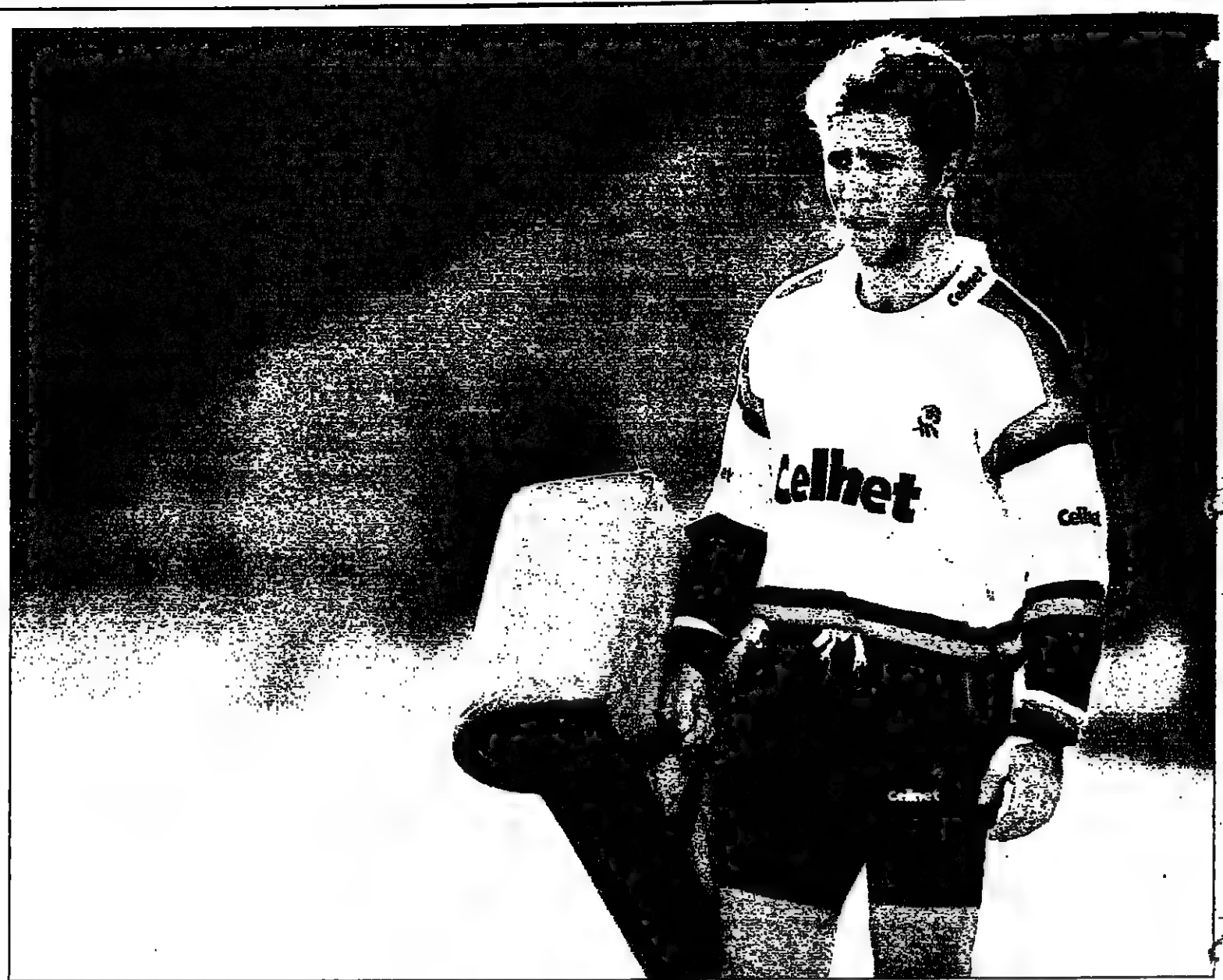
For most of the 70 players who have crossed to union in the past year, money has been the key factor. The first 12 months' money of the five-year £87 million Super League contract went on keeping many league clubs afloat, but more efficient management at clubs and the prospect of real wealth in the later stages of the world club tournament should help to curb the union drift.

At Wigan — where the prospect of £7 million being pumped into the financially-troubled club is held out by the takeover bid of Dave Whelan, owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club — Paul Harrison, the club spokesman, said: "Union clubs competing for players when contracts expire will be no different from competition from other league clubs. As usual, reports of rugby league's demise are premature."

League, however, is too small to withstand successfully the loss of even a handful of its leading combatants. Britain's recent 3-0 series defeat in New Zealand, where Connolly and Robinson were sorely missed, proved that. It is doubtful whether Harlequins and Bath could buy out their £1 million contracts with the Australian Rugby League. The Super League might, knowing their importance to the British side.

There is a sense, too, that Bath overplayed the rugby league hand. Robinson and Henry Paul appeared less than comfortable in the raw, combative arena at Cardiff in the Heineken Cup. In Harlequins' recent defeat by Sale, Connolly missed the lines of running completely, but all are learning and Dick Best, Harlequins' director of rugby, is convinced those doubling up in union would, in time, make international level.

"I'm a great student of league and we'll be watching the Super League closely in terms of possible further deals," Best said.



De Glanville is bringing a strong track record and a positive attitude to his new role as England captain. Photograph: Marc Aspland

De Glanville takes first steps forward

David Hands talks to a new England captain ready to put the past behind him but equally keen not to look too far ahead

How do you follow a world record-holder? Where are the guidelines on how to begin a new sporting era? How long will it be before Will Carling's England becomes part of rugby union history and Phil de Glanville's England has stamped its own authority on the sport?

Not that de Glanville will have been worrying about history during the few short days since November 4, when he found that he was to follow Carling as captain of England. The present has filled his time, the personal adjustment from being just another squad member to his focal point, at a time when both the squad and the way it seeks to play the game are changing fundamentally.

When the Bath captain says that he is looking no further than England's game against Italy at Twickenham tomorrow, the meeting with the New Zealand Barbarians a week later and the December 14 encounter with Argentina, one sympathises. For, in these three games, he will begin to come to terms with his new role and the demands that England and its rugby public place upon him.

When Carling began his

59-match stewardship eight years ago, he was the fifth man to lead England that calendar year and the sport was in a state of flux. He hands over to de Glanville a perception of English rugby enhanced beyond recognition by success, by professionalism and — the down side — the ills that play-for-pay has brought in its wake. Apart from anything else, de Glanville's England has now to compensate for the inadequacies of administrators by playing so well as to make the public forget the quarrels and political strife that have marred this season.

All of these arguments will have run through Jack Rowell's mind before his decision, back in September, to want a maturity, in individual and playing terms, that Lawrence Dallaglio perhaps lacked. Dallaglio is, after all, one of the new wave. Whereas Carling, at 22, had old sweat stains as Peter Winterbottom, Mike Teague, Rob Andrew, Rory Underwood, Wade Dooley and

Paul Ackford to proffer advice, de Glanville is surrounded by youngsters with the exceptions of the two multi-capped men, Carling himself and Jason Leonard. De Glanville, at 28, has established a strong track record of his own, a mind honed at the universities of Durham and Oxford, a business career as a marketing consultant that he steadfastly refuses to relinquish for the dubious pleasures of full-time sport, a playing career hardened in the fire of Bath rugby at its apogee.

Above all, he knows Rowell from his days as Bath's coach. "If things need to be said to Jack, I won't hesitate to say them," de Glanville says with a glint in his eye. "I know he won't hesitate to say them to me."

He acknowledges how life will change, not only for himself but for Yolanda, his wife, whom he met while at Durham. She was not aware of him as a rugby player then; she is now, with media crews camped out on the

road to glean words of wisdom from the latest occupant of a high-profile job. "We will keep our feet firmly on the ground," de Glanville promises, and it must be hoped, in the whirligig world of international sport, that he can.

He is in no doubt that leadership has to be a positive quality. "There must be a good empathy with the other players, but getting the balance right between being the captain and being part of the squad is difficult, particularly when you have come out of the squad to occupy the new role. I'll bring a positive attitude to the way we want to play the game and the way the squad environment develops."

"We are here first and foremost to win, secondly to enjoy ourselves. The balance, in the psychology of the squad, is very important. But when the going gets tough, I hope I won't revert to what have become known as 'traditional' English methods. Space and time are at a premium in international

rugby, which makes it difficult to play the kind of rugby we are aiming for, but players are developing the necessary mental and physical skills through the way the majority of their clubs have been playing this season.

"You need 15 players all reacting to the same kind of game and one of the most refreshing aspects of this season has been the consistency of approach by players from different clubs."

The build-up has already changed from Will's era, the different environment we find at Bisham Abbey, the new warm-up routines, but we are finding out what's right for this squad and not just seeking change for its own sake.

"We want a balanced game that will keep the opposition guessing. We are always going to play with options, not just running the ball all the time; kicking is part of the game too. But our general philosophy is to keep the ball in hand. It will take time to get our execution right and we would not pretend to be at the top of the world game right now — but we aspire to be there."

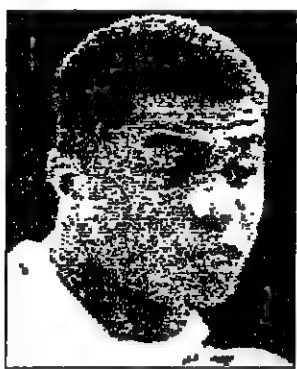
Lomu has chance to re-establish himself

BY DAVID HANDS

JONAH LOMU will make his second appearance in Great Britain on Sunday, as part of the New Zealand Barbarians XV team to play the Northern Counties at Huddersfield in the one preparatory game prior to the meeting with England on November 30.

Lomu, who appeared in the Tean Evans testimonial match at Llanelli last season, has suffered an undistinguished year after the huge impact he made during the 1995 World Cup. This brief visit will be his chance to re-establish himself in the absence of such experienced backs as Frank Bunce, Walter Little and Jeff Wilson.

The XV for Sunday will not be too far away from the team that will meet England at Twickenham, though Carlos Spencer, who enjoyed such a fruitful season with Auckland,



Robinson: at crossroads

plays at stand-off half ahead of Andrew Mehrtens. Christian Cullen, the discovery of 1996, plays at full back.

Scotland and Wales got their World Cup Sevens qualifying campaigns off to flying starts with 13-try victories on the opening day of the tournament in Dubai yesterday. James Craig helped himself to 31 points, with five tries and three conversions, while Scott Nicol scored 25 through a hat-trick of tries and five conversions as the Scots crushed Zambia 87-0 in their opening pool E match.

Wales beat Singapore 77-0, with all seven players scoring tries, and then beat a strong and spirited Zimbabwe side 31-14.

NEW ZEALAND BARBARIANS: in Honiara, Cullen, J. Lomu, A. Ieremia, L. Shersham, G. Osborn, C. Spencer, J. Marshall, W. Allen, S. Fitzpatrick, O. Brown, D. Moku, R. Brooke, G. Taylor, A. Brown, T. Handell

Summit talks can bring greater union to Europe

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby union commentary

Next Monday a meeting is to take place in Dublin to determine the future of European rugby fixtures. The success of the Heineken Cup this season has ensured that its future is guaranteed. Whether the present format remains — the number of clubs, the complement of matches, when they are to be played and so on — is a matter for debate. What is certain is that this tournament will provide the main

alive here last weekend, it has been so from the beginning in France. For Marcel Marín, France's representative on the ERC, this response has been particularly satisfying. His vision now is that this feeling should be shared among others in Europe.

"It is important that the unions, clubs and provinces and so on should come together," he said. "There are a lot of fixtures which conflict with one another at the moment. We must make rugby a sport in Europe which is saleable, profitable and of the style which will get the maximum number of people watching and playing."

A 17-point questionnaire has been circulated to all those attending the meeting. What, for example, is a sustainable number of matches? And over how many weekends? How many fixtures should be at home? With how many matches would the clubs be happy, from the playing point of view as well as financial viability?

The questions go beyond club fixtures, domestic and European, to include international matches before and after Christmas. These must dovetail together.

"There is a fabric that needs to be kept together not torn apart. But the

cannot all go to a small number of rich clubs. Such a concentration would not ultimately be to the benefit of rugby. This is why it is important to maintain a second tier of competition. Of course, television and sponsors are interested largely in the main event. We must not ignore the rest, however. The profits may not all be shared equally, but nor must all the money go into the pockets of the few; there is a shared responsibility. The

richer for it. "We must not allow what happened to rugby to happen to rugby union. Rugby league remains limited to a small band of clubs in a very small number of countries. Rugby union has a duty to get as many players as possible and as many people watching as possible."

"We must also be concerned that there should be a sense of continuity. What if, for example, Harlequins or Leicester or any other team in the Heineken Cup did not qualify next season? Do they drop out altogether? What incentive should they have to play in the autumn? Having experienced European rugby one year, their motivation would be very low without it. This cannot be allowed to happen."

"We need to be aware also of the emerging nations. If the Heineken tournament is dominated by teams from the five nations, as it is at the moment, it does not mean that it should always remain like this."

"When France began playing the other four countries in the early days, they were always beaten by large scores. This is clearly not the case any more. The French game was able to develop very quickly because of their culture of rugby by their continued involvement. Therefore, we should consider other countries in the rest of Europe."

"We should think of those who are taking their first steps in rugby's broad community, like Spain and Germany. Perhaps we should consider playing them in the second competition. In that way, we might be able to give them an incentive and to push the game forward. That is the kind of expansion we should aim for."

"There should always be a channel between the top and small clubs, between the major countries and the emerging ones. Our view, clubs and unions, of what the possibilities are should not be constrained and narrow. If we accept this interweaving of shared interests, then the future of rugby is very exciting."

'Appeal must not only be to the few clubs'

Present at this meeting will be the five directors of the European Rugby Cup (ERC) committee, as well as five other members who will represent the clubs, districts and provinces of the five nations where difficulties have arisen. It is hoped that the many conflicts and divergent interests that marred the competition last year, and which have continued in other forms and by other means this season, will receive attention. The unions and clubs must begin to unite in the interest of the game as a whole. Clearly, there are too many arguments and too many matches at present.

If the European tournament came

RUGBY LEAGUE: LEEDS CLUBS SET UP DEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL WING

Sterling wanted in player-share agreement

PAUL STERLING, a wing in both codes, is about to follow Martin Offiah at London Broncos and Bedford in becoming only the second jointly-owned rugby league and rugby union player in a combined deal by the Leeds league and union clubs, who now share the Headingley ground (Christopher Irvine writes).

The player-share arrangement is the first of its kind since the marriage of convenience between the two clubs ten months ago. "There will be a cash

assistance provided by Leeds RU," Gary Hetherington, the Leeds league chief executive, said. "It was ourselves who made the approach to Hull (where Sterling is on the transfer list at £100,000). The arrangement is that his union does not overlap with the league."

Sterling, 30, a late starter in both sports, joined Hull from Bradford and Bingley rugby union club in 1993. He made one appearance for his former union side this season before Hull demanded a fee. Last year he represented Great Britain,

in the rugby league world sevens in Sydney. Sterling is expected to join Leeds, from Hull, in exchange for Matthew Schulz, a forward.

Leeds yesterday announced a five-figure sponsorship deal with the fast-food chain, McDonald's, for the family stand and junior supporters' club.

Garry Scholfield, the former Leeds and Great Britain stand-off half, last night received the Rugby League Writers' Association merit award for services to the game.



Today's TES contains the most detailed set of school and college performance tables to be published by any newspaper in England and Wales. Forty-eight pages of results plus unrivalled analysis and comment.

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RACING: OWNER OF JACKDAWS CASTLE CALLS FOR REVIEW

Courses come under fire again at grassroots level

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A CALL for a fundamental review of going reports and turf husbandry at Britain's racetracks came yesterday as misgivings surfaced about the state of another Jockey Club-owned course.

Colin Smith, who spent £3.1m building Jackdaws Castle, David Nicholson's racing base, is critical of the poor quality of many courses — and the "deliberately" inaccurate going reports produced by some clerks of the courses.

"If climatic changes mean we are going to get less rain and warmer temperatures, the problem will get worse and you will end up with a truncated season," he warned.

The Jockey Club is responsible for the condition of racetracks but, as Smith pointed out, it owns a dozen courses through its subsidiary, Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT), and "is therefore often sitting in judgment on itself". Similarly, the inspectors of courses are employed by the Jockey Club, rather than the British Horseracing Board.

Warwick, one of the RHT tracks, confirmed yesterday it had commissioned a report from an independent agronomist — a year ago which had highlighted failings in its soil and grass structure. Lack of cash has delayed implementing his recommendations.

The growing unease among trainers and owners about the state of some tracks and misleading going reports has convinced Smith that radical action is required. He believes all courses should be required to take advice from an independent agronomist, chosen from a selected panel, and implement recommendations on soil testing, strains of grass and watering.

"At too many courses, there is an irrigation policy and the equipment is to be fair to groundsmen; is often truly horrible," he said. "It can range from punctured hoses, dragged behind lorries, to garden sprinklers."

The watering policy on jumps courses varies enormously. Kempton started watering seriously in August, while Newbury, Ascot and Cheltenham left it much later. The National Trainers' Federation has lodged a formal complaint about the going at Newbury's October meeting.

Clerks of the courses are responsible for determining the official going but "too many of them at important times call it wrongly because they want to get runners to the course. Some are just incompetent," Smith added. "There are two or three clerks of courses whom you cannot trust at all when it comes to going reports."

Although the Jockey Club has been trying for years, without success, to introduce a penetrometer to give accurate going readings, Smith believes an accumulation of readings from such an instrument at individual tracks over a two-year period would give trainers a more accurate guide

than that offered by clerks of courses.

Smith's main complaint is against Cheltenham, run by RHT, "because it is supposed to be the No 1 course in the country, but it is far from that in the calling of the going and the nature of the ground."

"It doesn't have any grass of any consequence. It is like the hair on your head; it looks okay, but is pretty thin. When it comes to calling the going they tend to err on the side of what they believe it should be. It is easy to be over critical. The truth is it has come upon them a bit. As a result of better drainage, the moisture content of the soil has changed, but not the type of grass. No one, until recently, thought about such things."

He concluded: "If you looked at football pitches 20 years ago in March, they had little grass on them. That is not the case now. The technology is there to give you the grass and soccer has adapted. Racing hasn't."



Smith keeps a watchful eye on the gallops at Jackdaws Castle, where champion trainer, Nicholson, is based

THUNDER
1.00 Regal Pursuit
1.35 Random Harvest
2.10 Castle Sweep

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 REGAL PURSUIT.

6.00: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 TRAVELLING THE TURF RACE OF THE YEAR CONDITIONAL

JOCKEYS' HANDICAP (23.51; 2m 40) (7 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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1.35 CHARLES DAVIS HANDICAP CHASE (23.51; 2m 110yds) (7 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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2.50 CROSTON LAMMERMEER HANDICAP HURDLE (24.16; 2m 110yds) (7 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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1.10 SOUTHPORT HANDICAP HURDLE (23.02; 2m 110yds) (10 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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1.45 LYDiate CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (22.02; 2m 40) (8 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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2.20 JOHN PARRETT MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (22.74; 3m 10) (4 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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FORM FOCUS

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Wincanton

Going good
1.30 (2m 40) 1. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10. WAYFARERS MAY (A) (Jockey 5-11-11)

RETURNS: 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

FORM FOCUS

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Warwick

Going good
1.30 (2m 40) 1. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10. EASTERN RIVER (A) (Jockey 5-11-11)

3.10 GERRARD AND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (23.37; 2m) (5 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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FORM FOCUS

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2.10 SCURRIER CLOTHING NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (23.51; 2m) (11 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 11th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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FORM FOCUS

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2.40 COOPERS & LYDiate ASCOT HURDLE (23.51; 2m 40) (10 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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FORM FOCUS

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3.40 LADBROKE TRAIL HANDICAP HURDLE (23.58; 2m 110yds) (11 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 11th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

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FORM FOCUS

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5.00 GRAND UNION NURSERY HANDICAP (23.58; 2m 110yds) (11 runners)

1st 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 2nd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 3rd 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 4th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 5th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 6th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 7th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 8th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 9th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 10th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 11th 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11)

RETURNS: 101-41 RAINBOWS 5 (5) (Jockey 5-11-11) 101-41 RAINBOW

GOLF: WAY AND McLEAN SAMPLE PERILS OF EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING EVENT AS THEY SEEK TO RE-ESTABLISH CAREERS

Prodigies reunited at school of hard knocks

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SAN ROQUE

PAUL WAY and Mike McLean were two names to watch in British junior golf in the late Seventies. They were straight out of the Bash Street Kids, with mischief in their eyes and cheeks as rosy as Kentish apples. Irreverent and cocky, they brought fame to the Hugh Christie School in Tonbridge.

Not that either was a keen student — one got into trouble for practising on the school playing fields — but it did not matter. Golf was going to be their livelihood, that much was certain. They were prodigies.

Way was the cockier of the two, the more outspoken, the one who did everything at 100mph. He had all the confidence of youth. Alex Hay, the professional at Woburn and BBC commentator, once said that Way swung the club more naturally than anyone he had seen. Way was the powerful one; McLean, always a short hitter, the more subtle. Way tried to overpower courses, McLean to outwit them.

Born within three weeks of one another in 1963, they turned professional in 1981. It took McLean only two years to win a tournament, and that year, Way, who had been a Walker Cup player at 18, became the second youngest Ryder Cup player for Europe.

Last season, Way won £24,300, McLean £37,700. Even combined, it amounts to £62,000 less than Colin Montgomerie won to finish top of the order of merit.

For the two men of Kent to compete on the European Tour next year, they had to submit themselves to the rigours of the qualifying school, and since they had done almost everything else in their careers together, it was appropriate that their attempts to regain former glories began yesterday at precisely the same time, on the same course.

As Way and McLean practised their putting before beginning their rounds, they were surrounded by former colleagues such as Brian

Marchbank, 38, the Scottish professional champion, and others they had never set eyes on before. "This is the second time I've been here," Marchbank, who competed on the Tour every year from 1979 to 1995, said. "I came last year

Leading scores 49

and didn't make it. If I don't make it this year, I shall definitely not be back again. I've had enough. I shall have to find something else to do."

McLean began well. He birdied two holes going out, but came home in a nervous 39 for a 73, six strokes behind Matthew Goggin, of Australia, the lowest scorer at San Roque. "That typified the way I have played all year," McLean said. "I just cannot be as aggressive as I ought to be and then I start to steer the ball from the tee. When I do that, I miss fairways."

His visor had the word "Ambiance" printed on it. "It's the name of a neighbour's shirt company," McLean explained. "The neighbour sponsors me. He has a son who has muscular dystrophy and is in a wheelchair, and I spend a lot of time with him. He's great. He plays golf from his wheelchair. When I look at him, I wonder: 'Why do I worry about myself?'"

Way, meanwhile, had had a nightmare of a round, in keeping with a season in which he missed the cut in 20 out of 26 events. Three strokes were squandered on the 8th, when his drive bounced on a cart-path and was never seen again, and when he left a putt short on the 10th, he swore in a way that would have earned him a fine for an audible obscenity had he been playing tennis. Was this really the man who had won the Dutch Open in 1982, the PGA championship in 1985 and the European Open in 1987?

There is a saying on the Tour that you cannot win a tournament on the first day, but you can lose it. After an 81, the highest of the day at San Roque, Way has surely lost all chance of continuing after the

72-hole cut. "I played dreadful," Way said, indicating that 15 years on the circuit has indoctrinated him in Tour-speak. "This is ridiculous, desperate stuff. I just don't know what's going on."

"I didn't enjoy that out there today," McLean said. "I know what the problem is with me. I have seen too many bad shots over the years and I worry about when one is going to come. Then I start steering the ball around and then I'm in trouble."

Way and McLean are only 33, the same age as Montgomerie and seven years younger than Costantino Rocca. They are worlds away from where they had once been. What price fame now?

FOOTBALL

Unhappy Warnock states his case

BY DAVID POWELL

NEIL WARNOCK, the Plymouth Argyle manager, has taken the bold and unusual step of issuing a prepared statement to take his chairman to task over his running of the club. So troubled is Warnock, who led his team to promotion last season, that his document runs to 300 words.

Warnock stormed out of the Nationwide League second division home match with Chesterfield on Tuesday night before the final whistle, with Plymouth 3-0 down. "I went into the match against Chesterfield at my lowest ebb and told Mick Jones [his assistant] that mentally I was burnt out and now it was affecting my health," Warnock said in his statement, which he released on Wednesday night. "In fact, I felt so bad I walked out ten minutes before the end because I had had enough."

The manager was anxious yesterday to ensure that this should not be interpreted as a case similar to that of Steve Coppell. Coppell, who quit Manchester City, citing stress, but Warnock said yesterday that it was not that he could not take the pressure, but that he was "mentally fed up" at what he regarded as a lack of support from Dan McCauley, the Plymouth chairman.

"It [the club] is in crisis," Warnock's statement read. The manager complains of his frustration at failing to secure a budget and an impending maximum wage and relocation structure that, he suggests, would restrict him to non-League signings.

Warnock added yesterday that: "If [the chairman] does not want the club to go forward, he has got the wrong manager. If things are not resolved, and this cannot go on much longer, it is pointless me carrying on."

Warnock said he was not worried how the chairman might react to his statement.

The worst thing that could happen is that I get sacked," Warnock said. "I thought: 'What have I got to lose?'"

□ Ivano Bonetti, the Tranmere Rovers forward, won his civil lawsuit against Brian Laws, the former Grimsby Town manager, yesterday. A private hearing at the High Court in London ruled that Laws had no prospect of a successful defence and that a full trial was therefore unnecessary.

The case followed a dressing-room incident on February 10, when Bonetti was a Grimsby player after the first division match at Luton Town. The Italian was left with a fractured cheekbone. The amount of money he will receive in damages has yet to be decided.

Brilliant Becke too much Samp

Woods is lost as Norman breezes round

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SYDNEY

GREG NORMAN headed off for a round with Bill Clinton yesterday afternoon, secure in the knowledge that the score he had posted in the morning, in the first round of the Australian Open at The Australian Club here, would be hard to beat. Sure enough, Norman's 67, five under par, was too good for the rest of the field, including Tiger Woods, who needed a birdie on the last hole to break 80 and was tied in 92nd place out of 126.

He was not alone, however. On a day when the breeze swirled every which way and only ten players broke par, Craig Parry and David Frost, both well-handled, also had 79s. Klas Eriksson, a Swede who thinks Australian courses are wonderful, came closest to Norman, one shot behind.

Robert Stephens, of Victoria, was third, on 69, with Gary Evans and David Howell, of England, in the group on 70. Howell, 21, who is in his first year as a professional, started with an eagle three, double-bogeyed the short second, came back with four birdies and then dropped two birdies in the last three holes. He is one of those rare beings to achieve something in golf that Woods now never will — he was on a winning Walker Cup team, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland side that beat the United States, Woods included, at Royal Portcawl last year.

Yesterday, after a frustrating round, Woods said: "It was a rough day. My good shots turned out bad and my bad shots turned out horrible. I felt my decision-making was pretty good but I just couldn't execute the shots. I was out of

rhythm. I've had a lot of days like that — more than I would like — but it's part of the game. I tried my heart out on each and every shot."

Norman, relaxed and affable, was more like his old self, unlike the sulky person who won the championship last year. Convinced that his collapse at the Masters in April was mechanical rather than mental, Norman has been working on a couple of swing changes with David Leadbetter. "They're very, very minor, but they feel huge to me," he said, "and I feel naked out there. Probably nobody else notices the difference, but it feels very, very strange and difficult to me."

This being the Australian Open and Woods being here, Norman, the competitor, forgot about swing changes and had his best thinking day on the golf course for some months. "I focused on my shots, not my swing," he said afterwards. He did not lose concentration after 13 or 14 holes, as he admitted he had been doing, and six birdies in all, with four in the five holes from the 11th, confirmed that the Shark was sharp.

Later, at the New South Wales club, where the security men had been preparing for the presidential visit for a couple of weeks, the President's opening drive was enough for Norman to send back to the pro's shop for more Maxflis.

Later, however, Norman was complimentary of his playing partner. "Give me 60 days and I'd have him breaking 80 every day. He has a lot of talent and knows about the game," he said.

Customs officers knuckle down to duty

FROM MEL WEBB
IN LA MANGA

IT WAS a fair cop; the forces of good had everybody bang to rights. The men from the Customs and Excise are used to making big-time arrests, and four of their number demonstrated their ability to feel collars yesterday when they moved in on the South course here and in one smooth operation laid one collective hand on a piece of crystalware with a street value of several thousand pounds.

The classy glass from Waterford Crystal is on offer to the national winners of The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, and no-



body did better than the National Investigation Service of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, who ended the first day of the competition with a four-point lead.

The Duty men — John Nicholson, Colin Tennant, Colin Shaw and Malcolm Woodall — could be proud of their Stabford points total of 85 (or 99.875 including VAT). Admittedly, it was a perfect day for golf, but the course is not easy, even when the conditions are as benign as they were here.

It is a fair golf course, but a tough one — those looking for easy conquests might as well push over somewhere down the costa where the sporting life is a little less taxing and where, no doubt, some of the Customs men's former clients are presently domiciled.

Customs and Excise have a narrow but potentially still vital advantage over ZET



David Tennant, of United Distillers, plays from the 7th of the South course yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Insurance Services, with the head office of Allied Dunbar third on 79, one ahead of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association and Seton Healthcare. The four teams closest to the leaders all felt last night that they still had a chance of victory, but deeds of derring-do will be needed for it to happen.

"We were aware from things that filtered down to us that we were in the lead," Nicholson, the team captain, said. "That put us under even more pressure, and although we knew the television cameras were going to be there, we still found them daunting. We're really looking forward to tomorrow, though."

SCORES

FIRST DAY, 85: HM Customs and Excise National Investigation Service, 81; ZET Insurance Services, 79; Allied Dunbar Head Office, 78; Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association; Seton Healthcare, 77; Arthur Anderson, 76; United Distillers, 73; Armstrong Watson & Co, 71; Deloitte & Touche, 68; Jaguar Centre (Hull), 67; Reuters, 64; Charles Russell.

This is one of those experiences that you're lucky to have once in a lifetime and, wherever we finish, we're going back to England on Saturday having thoroughly enjoyed our trip here. We've been made to feel special."

ing teams have been drawn together by kismet — they had never met before they travelled to Spain together on Tuesday, but already all eight are firm friends. Off the course, that is — on it they are trying, in the civilised way that golfers do these things, to slaughter each other.

The leaders produced the best score on the front nine of 44, and relied on sound teamwork, apart from two high spots. The first came on the 9th, when Tennant rammed in a high-speed putt from not far short of 30 feet for a birdie and four points. It was as well it dropped — if it had not, it was on its way to Alicante. The other highlight came on the 15th, where they had their only seven-point haul.

Meanwhile, mayhem ensued by the 18th green when David Lait, a member of the ZET team, put his ball high in a palm tree alongside the putting surface. Lait was told he had to identify his ball before he could take a penalty drop, and in the end it was left to Scott Moffat, one of the Challenge support team, to shin up the tree and knock Lait's ball down.

It involved ladders, metal rods and, finally, a golf club before the ball was dislodged. "It's not mine," Lait said with a broad grin. And the truly amazing thing is that somebody believed him.

SPORTS LETTERS

Telford championships offer worthy stage

From Mr John Cuffley

Sir, I found it difficult to relate my experience at the British national tennis championships to the comments in the opening paragraphs of Alex Ramsay's report (November 14).

The championships probably do come as a bit of a culture shock to a few of our top players, but this event gives a considerable number of up-and-coming players the opportunity to have a go at the leading British performers in serious competition, thereby not only improving their skills and experience but also, in some cases, beating them. That is the way to develop new champions.

I am surprised that the absence of windows in the building is criticised. There are plenty in the social area. Sport played indoors at this level needs to have good, even lighting conditions which the Telford Racquet Centre pro-

vides, especially in the centre court used for the main matches. Nobody there needs to look at the passing scene, while players, officials and spectators do not want the distraction of shadows or bright patches of sunlight on court due to changing conditions outside.

As for enthusiasm, most players showed great commitment and effort, though a few tended to acknowledge through body language, before the last point, when a lost match seemed inevitable. The spectators, however, especially for the centre court, were numerous, appreciative, understanding and encouraging, even in the earlier stages of the championships.

The spectators were particularly tolerant of the temper tantrums shown at times by one or two players, some of whom progressed to the later rounds. Some should have been old enough to know bet-

ter. As a number of school parties attended during the week for coaching, as well as to see quality tennis, I felt it unfortunate that a small minority of players let themselves down by unseemly screaming over big points.

If some of the higher-ranked players suffered from championship torpor, having played an exhausting programme through the summer, that is perhaps the time when they should be topped from their perches by youthful successors. That, after all, is the law of the jungle, which is reflected in international sport.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CUFFLEY,
6 The Heighways,
Upper Court,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire.

Sadly missed

From Mr P. A. Tyler

Sir, Sir Donald Bradman's place among the great Test captains is indisputable, but John Woodcock (The Great Captains, November 13) is mistaken when he names Grinnett as one of the bowlers who contributed to Bradman's successful captaincy. O'Reilly, Lindwall, Miller, yes; but the end of Grinnett's Test career coincided with Bradman's accession to the leadership of Australia. He never played a Test match under Bradman.

Grinnett was sadly missed in 1936-37 and 1938 by his old partner, O'Reilly. Yours faithfully,
P. A. TYLER,
Wildwood, The Hyde,
Winchcombe, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Unhappy memories for Astle

From Mr John Moynihan

Sir, Keith Pike included Jeff Astle's "sad toe-poke" for England against Brazil in the 1970 World Cup finals in his list of great football misses (November 16).

I was sitting among a group of England supporters a few yards away from the net in Guadalajara, Mexico, that steaming hot day when the England substitute (for Bobby Charlton) was presented with a glorious chance of putting his team level after Jairzinho had put Brazil ahead in the second half.

We were still savouring the magic of Gordon Banks's save from Pelé at the same end in the first half and a goal from the West Bromwich Albion striker would have capped an extraordinary afternoon for

the followers of the reigning World Cup champions.

A toe-poke might well have done the trick — but with Felix quivering yards away as a redundant goalkeeper, Astle, with two open farm gates in aim at, used his left foot to shoot too quickly past the near left-hand post.

I recorded in my diary: "Astle stood there with his shoulders sagging. My friend Harry from Liverpool turned to me, his face squinting rage. 'By Christ, did you see that?' He could have blown the bugger in. My grandma could have put that away..."

I can still hear the Brazilian fans yelling with glee... and so too must Jeff Astle. Sincerely,
JOHN MOYNIHAN,
102 Ifield Road, SW10.

Unhappy motto

From Mr David J. Watkin

Sir, Professor Emeritus Herbert H. Huxley's letter (November 15), discussing the use of Latin mottoes by professional football clubs, prompts me to share with your readers perhaps the only example of their use by football supporters themselves.

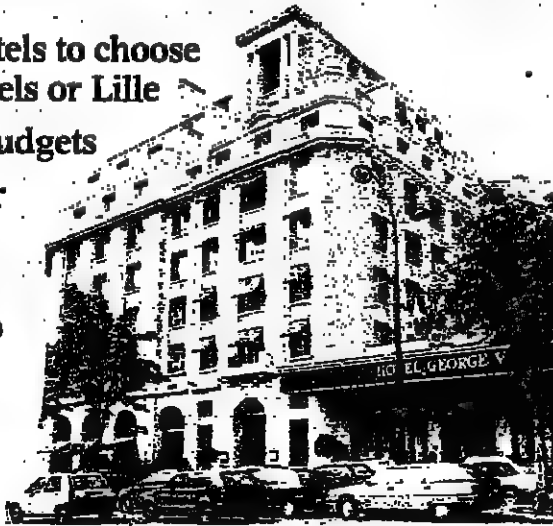
The West Bromwich Albion fanzine (Grorry Dick) has adopted a motto which is particularly appropriate to our club and, I'm sure, to many others. Under a shield, with a distinctly unhappy version of the club's traditional thistle, is the maxim: *Semper te fallant [sic] (They always let you down!)*

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. WATKIN,
45 Denleigh Road,
Kingswinford,
West Midlands.

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Today's Eurostar token is on page 39

CHANGING TIMES

All I want for Christmas is my Ruud Gullit windscreen scraper

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

The star system in football used to mean nothing to me. Rewinding the tape to the start of Euro 96, I seem to remember I would sit in my seat at Wembley and think the England team were all jumped-up nobodies. "So who does Teddy Sheringham play for usually, when he isn't doing this?" I would half-heartedly ask my long-suffering friend, Robert. "Totterham," he would reply. And I'd nod and sigh and make a mental note, but think secretly: "Well, you could be making that up, couldn't you? Nobody would care."

But it turns out that the individual fame of footballers is significant. These men are big stars, and there are hundreds of them piled up in a great starchy pyramid. And the astonishing thing is, they really deserve their personal recognition. If I met David Beckham, I would feel compelled to shake him by the hand. If I met David Ginola, I'd faint.

Having begun this strange career thinking football was all about abstract things such as league position and club loyalty, I now fully understand the bizarre demand for Ryan Giggs bedlinen. Though I have still not seen Newcastle United in the flesh, when the great day finally arrives, I'll be yelling: "Look, look! It's good old Peter Beardsley!" Just as I might applaud Leo McKern or Dora Bryan making an entrance on the stage.

All this starchy stuff is intended to explain why so little of Blackburn Rovers' game at Ewood Park last Saturday made an impression on me. Chelsea were the visitors, and it was a good and interesting match, but, quite honestly, when superstar-hero Ruud Gullit is coaching from the touchline, just a few yards in front of you, in a slim black tracksuit of transcendent elegance, it's rather difficult to take in anything else. Ruud! Ruud! Is it really you? You look just like you do on telly!

Others weren't so excitable, of course. "Sit down!" angry Blackburn supporters yelled, gesticulating in case he couldn't hear. Ruud chose to ignore their complaints and remained standing, which pleased me a lot, because when he was sitting



Stocking filler: "When Gullit is coaching from the touchline, just a few yards in front of you, it is rather difficult to take in anything else"

down I had to swivel 90 degrees in my seat to keep him in view, and could no longer pretend to be watching the match at all. "Sit down, ya great softy!" the fans persisted. Softy? Now I know why crowd scuffles break out, if ignorant views of that calibre are allowed free expression.

It was probably just as well to be hedged around by Blackburn supporters: it kept the lid on my protective instincts. When Chelsea's Italians were greeted with boos and "Get back to Spain!" I was obliged to chew the lip; and when Chelsea equalised at the end of the second half, I yelled a very short "Ye...!" (without the "s") and performed that bum-stuck-to-chewing-gum movement where you begin to stand up but then think better of it. The irony was, I don't support Chelsea. In fact, I don't support anybody. But I had inadvertently bought a seat in the middle of a season-ticket enclave, where even keen neutrality was a bad idea. "You've got to admit it's getting good now!" I said. "It's one-all! Cheer up!"

The home fans had every reason to feel robbed by the draw, actually. In

'He limbered up beautifully and finally took the field. It was all too much'

the first half, Blackburn played like a whirlwind — but a whirlwind which repeatedly swept the ball up to the goalmouth, and then failed to tip it anywhere near the net. "Oooh!" the fans wailed (a lot), and put hands to heads.

If we still had Shearer, we'd be three-up by now," a grizzled Glaswegian nearby moaned, and it was one of the saddest and most unanswerable complaints I've ever heard. Being a post-Shearer Blackburn supporter must make you feel all helpless and bereft — like being Lois Lane in the next room. Just to rub it in, the energetic Chelsea fans chanted "Shearer, Shearer!" — which was damned subtle of them.

"Well it's true, you've had lots of chances," I sympathised with the grizzled Scot. "You're playing much

better than Chelsea. Look, your goalie is freezing to death down there." But my nice moment of contact with the season-ticket man was soon dispelled, and it was all my fault. "Who's your striker now, then?" I asked, gently. "Sutton," he said. "Oh, right, of course, Sutton," I said, flipping the pages of my programme, unable to disguise the fact I'd never heard of him. "And is Sutton playing today? What does he look like?"

Meanwhile, the Chelsea side swarmed with very Italians. Ruud limbered up beautifully and finally took the field, and it was all too much. In the interests of good entertainment, I wanted Chelsea to make a good show, and while their spectacular dives were derided by the Blackburn fans, I saw the assorted leaps and skids as just proof of boundless Latin athleticism and continental

flair. Besides which, the ground was wet.

The new man, Zola, who is small and nippy, once actually somersaulted on contact. If I'm not mistaken, but those who booed him should consider that he was only obeying the laws of physics: when the players banged into one another, Zola must have been going at twice the speed of the other bloke.

Vialli was a Trojan, Gullit an inspiration, and it seemed silly for the home fans not to enjoy them. What I didn't like to say to the season-ticket brigade was this: if Blackburn sold Shearer for £15 million, why don't they buy some stars of their own? Where's the money gone?

But I had stung on the brain on Saturday, having been the same distance from Ruud Gullit as I am now from that light switch, or that doorman (the top of the stairs is too far). If the Chelsea club shop stocks Ruud Gullit shower milks, or Ruud Gullit fridge fresheners, or Ruud Gullit windscreen scrapers, I shall be putting them on my Christmas list at once.

The meringue addiction

In the Grip of the Glossies. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

"The whole world is washed with pink when a girl gets engaged." That's the kind of textual meringue the Scots poet Liz Lochhead gulped down out of women's magazines — "a source of mystery, metaphor, colour and poetry" — when she was a teenager. She would mourn for the death of romantic magic when told that vanishing cream was just another name for colourless foundation. As for these tips the glossies offered on "how to get your man — and keep him", it was all June and moon stuff. Sex meant gender, not intercourse. Lochhead is older and wiser now. Now, aimed at the liberated woman, pointed to the future when it gleefully announced: "Another jolly Christmas issue: adultery, rape, eroticism, extortion!"

Preoccupations. Radio 3, 2.00pm.

It's serious when one of our leading sopranos has to quit a theatre because, on stage, someone is wrestling with a 15ft make-believe python. But that's Susan Bullock, for you. Or rather, that's her phobia. She has a horror of snakes. The prop make was being used in *The Magic Flute*. But running out on Mozart was nothing compared with what happened on a train. She made a fellow passenger empty his duffel bag because she was sure it held a snake. There was nothing more reptilian in it than T-shirt and shorts. *Preoccupations* ends with some snake music by Michael Berkeley and Respighi. Bullock had left the studio by this time. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo. Includes Golden Hour 12.00 Lisa. Includes at 12.30pm-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier. Includes at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat and at 6.30 The Continuous Dance Mix 7.00 Essential Selection, with Pete Tong 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio Rap Show, with Tim Westwood 3.00am Anne Nightingale 5.00 Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Kelner 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Sheeran 5.05 Helen Sherrin with Charles News 7.00 Today's the Day 7.30 Friday Night Music Night 8.00 The 11.15 Inker's Guide 11.25 Book Choice 11.30 Multitask 12.30am Seven Days 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 World 4.00 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.00am Charles News

RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl Children in Need 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl Children in Need 2.00pm Russell on Five 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with David McNeil, incl Sports Bulletin 7.30 Performance Sport 8.30 Friday Sport. Shuffled until v Bolton Wanderers 10.05 Paper Talk with Jay Rayner and Brian Alexander 11.00 News Extra, with David McNeil 12.00am After Hours 2.00 AM All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Pearson 2.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Harris 5.00 Michael Jackson in Action 6.00 Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, includes Scharwenka (Piano Concerto No 4 in F minor); Pizzoli (Concerto piano quintet); 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hootby. 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nick Morgan. 12.00 Composers of the Week: Bartok and Kodaly, includes Bartok (Finding a Husband, Hungarian Folk Songs, 1930) 1.00pm News, including Lunchtime Concerts: Haydn Plus, from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, introduced by Chris de Souza. 2.15 Preoccupations. See Choice 2.15 Music Restored (r) 3.00 Mining the Archive. To celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Britten, on St Cecilia's Day, musicians who worked with him discuss his legacy. 5.00 The Music Machine. Students from Feltham's Longford Community School perform at the Harrow Arts Centre, London. 6.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas, including Johann Strauss (L'Entenpater) 6.30 A competition to raise money

for the Children in Need appeal: identify the nations of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf in recordings made over 50 years ago; 7.30 Berkeley/Duffy/Festini, Oliver Charley, violin, Haila Chrechevich, conductor; Chaslin, Barlow (Overture, Concerto); Duffy (Violin Concerto, L'Altre des Nations); Barlow (Three Pieces from The Damnation of Faust) 9.10 Outdoors, Chris Cutler, noise-maker, discusses the new album, *Outdoors*. 9.25 Restaurant's Best. (r) 10.00 Hear and Now. Performances at last month's Oxford Festival of Contemporary Music include the Norwegian BL 20 Ensemble performing Rolf Liebermann. 12.00 Composers of the Week: Cherubini and Spontini (r) 1.00pm Through the Night, with David McNeil, includes 1.00 Monteverdi, Penderecki, Vivaldi, J.C. Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky 4.45 Enigma 6.00 Sequence

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Player for the Day 6.30 Today's Weather 8.00 News 8.05 Desert Island Discs: Tessa Sanson (r) 8.45 Feedback. In the Grip of the Glossies (FM). See Choice 10.00 An Act of Worship (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour with 11.30 The Natural History Programme 12.00 News You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast (4/5) (r) 2.00 News; Classic Serial: Women in Love, by D.H. Lawrence Dramatised by Elaine Feinstein (4/5) (r) 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brennan and guests 4.00 News; Aesop's Fables, with Tim Marlowe and a David Hockney exhibition 4.45 Short Story: A Sort of Love Story, by Tom MacDonagh. A young man becomes hopelessly infatuated by a cool older woman 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News

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Blanks comes out fighting

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DESPITE his team's failure to win a match this season and their position at the bottom of the women's national league premier division, Kevin Blanks, the Leicester manager, will not hear talk of gloom and doom at the club.

"I can categorically state that there is no crisis," he said. "Of course, we are not happy at the way things have worked out this season and I have my

own views as to what has gone wrong, but we're doing all we can to rectify the situation."

Fighting talk. Nonetheless, it is an alarming slide for the club that has finished runners-up three times, and qualified for Europe after winning the title in 1994.

Blanks is adamant that the team has performed well against the top sides but has been guilty of leaking goals. It

is a fault that could well be attributed to the loss of two experienced international defenders this year. Kath Johnson and Lucy Cope.

Johnson, one of the few outstanding players in Britain's Olympic campaign, is taking a break and has yet to decide her future, while Cope has signed for the four-times former champions, Slough, after moving to London to continue her academic career.

Relegation, Blanks insists, is unthinkable. "We have a superb forward line and once we can give them a consistent supply, I know they will convert the chances."

They will have to start against Doncaster tomorrow. The Yorkshire club has already hammered the title-holders, Highdown, 8-2, and has earned a reputation as a tough, robust team.

Victory at Doncaster could prove to be the turning point for the luckless Midlandsers. After that, they have one more fixture before the extended break to begin to turn around their fortunes.

Blanks added: "There's a big time gap between December and the end of February, and although we have the quality players to turn it around, I keep saying that you don't win matches on paper. You win them on the pitch."

Ayers waits on Duff's record offer

MICHAEL AYERS, the British lightweight champion, is awaiting confirmation from Mickey Duff, the London promoter, about his offer of £100,000 to meet Billy Scherer, of Luton (Srikumar Sen writes).

Duff had made the record offer to the winner of the bout between Ayers and Colin Dunne. In which Ayers, of Tooting, retained his title in style by stopping Dunne in the ninth round at Wembley Conference Centre on Wednesday night. On the same bill, Scherer, who is managed by Duff, made hard work of stopping the journeyman boxer, Jean Moulin, of France.

The champion who is due to challenge Artur Grigorian, of Russia, for the World Boxing Organisation title in the new year, said he was ready to meet Scherer as soon as Duff puts the money on the table.

"I'll fight Scherer any time if Mickey Duff pays the £100,000 he was offering. We are the best two lightweights in the country and the fans have been waiting for two years to see us fight. I think we should get it on. The sooner I can get rid of Scherer, the sooner I'll get the respect I deserve."

Nicol was almost as fed-up as Walker. "These referees

Plucky Walker misses final by a whisker

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN KARACHI

CHRIS WALKER failed by a single point against Rodney Eyles, the second-seeded Australian, to become the third successive Englishman to reach a World Open final against Jansher Khan here yesterday.

Walker, 29, from Colchester, had been two games down and 5-0 down in the third before the Australian allowed him a toe-hold that, in a brilliant fightback, Walker built into a 14-12 match-ball opportunity.

The Englishman, recently promoted to No 4 in the world, wears the logo of Dolphin Square, in London, where he lives and trains, on the front of his shirt. On the back is the e-mail address of the magazine of which he is sports fitness correspondent. "I won't take much joy in telling them this story," he said.

Joy was what he brought, though, to Karachi's squash enthusiasts, through his 73-minute 15-12, 15-7, 14-15, 4-15, 15-14 effort after they had watched, approvingly yet not fully satisfied, as Jansher, the defending champion, dismissed Peter Nicol, of Scotland, 15-9, 15-9, 15-3 in the other semi-final.

Nicol was almost as fed-up as

A woman's place is on the pitch, official

Harlequins rugby football club is 130 years old — so it should come as no surprise that the gentlemen of the club have pretty much perfected the sidekick by now. But still, watching them execute their clever little shimmies last night, so neatly and with such perfect timing, was a joy to behold.

Each time the makers of *Women with Balls* (Channel 4) charged, the brave Twickers chaps stood their ground... only to step elegantly out of the way at the last moment. I don't think they should be at rugby matches, but on the evidence of this perhaps they should.

Watching a documentary maker miss the intended target is rarely going to be as enjoyable as it was watching Alison Millar, the director, miss hers. Hard as she tried, as she chartered the progress of Harlequins ladies in their inaugural season, the men of Harlequins

stood firm. They had done their homework, they stuck to the game plan, they all remembered what happened when a Channel 4 documentary team turned up at Northwood golf club a couple of years ago. Once again, the game of *chichester le chavivist* was underway.

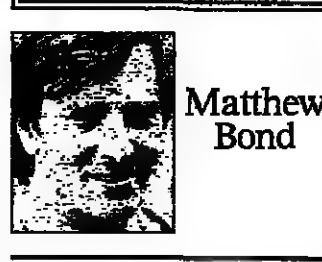
"So," said the quiet little female voice behind the camera, "what do you think of the women's game?" The big burly man with a big burly pint of beer in his hand gave it a couple of seconds' thought: "Fantastic." "Drat," the quiet little female voice — so sweet, so innocent, so certain that sooner or later one of these lunks would play into her hands, moved on. "So, how do you think they are playing?" Dick Best, a former England coach and a very important person at Harlequins, launched his shoulders against the Sunday morning wind: "Outstanding." He had a point — Kirstie and the gang were in the

process of putting 136 points past opposition so bad they weren't named.

And so it went on. "What do you think of Camilla playing rugby?" "Absolutely fantastic," said her proud father. "Do you think there'll ever be a female president of Harlequins?" David Brook, paused, shrugged (you know the form by now). "I think that may be pushing it a little too far..." yes, yes... but maybe, one day. "Drat" — double, double, double drat.

Only a passing lunatic on Waterloo station served up what Bill McLaren would call the needful. Sam and the omnipresent Camilla (Vice-Captain, Player of the Year and runner-up in the Boobs of the Year award only because of the outside assistance of a Wonderbra apparently) were handing out leaflets to publicise Ladies Day. "You should be back in the kitchens and leave

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

playing rugby to men," the commuter yelled, breaking off from his pursuit of the 6.32pm to Woking just long enough to hurl a helpful shout of "perverts" behind him. Call me old-fashioned but I don't think lunatics on Waterloo station count. Sorry.

Elsewhere, the battle between British and American sitcoms finally came up with an unexpected result. We won! What made the

victory doubly surprising was not only that the winner was *2Point4 Children* (BBC1) but that it was delivered — inexplicably — with the help of a Halloween special. Just the three weeks late then. On that basis I take it we can look forward to the Christmas special some time in early February.

So ill-prepared was I for a return to ghouls, ghouls and things that go bump in the night, that it took me almost as long as the cast to realise that Mr Cuddal next door was actually an anagram of... well, I'm sure you've worked it out already.

It was all very silly but, cheerfully for a series that occasionally looks tired, quite funny as well. Ben (Gary Olsen) had put on some Lon Chaney make-up to frighten off trick or treaters. "Guess where I got it from?" "Princess Diana on *Panorama*?" said Bill (Belinda Lang). I love it when she gets vicious.

On the losing end of last night's transatlantic skirmish was *Third Rock from the Sun* (BBC2), a series I fear I may have been a shade too nice about when it started out a few weeks ago. Last night's episode, in which the high commander of our visiting band of aliens took up smoking, was virtually a laugh-free zone. It would have been entirely had it not been for the presence of John Lithgow as Dick, the head alien honcho. The jokes may be old, but Lithgow delivers them beautifully. "Dick, smoking takes ten years off your life," protested a colleague. "Yeah, but only off the end of your life..." and they're crapping years anyway. "I confess, I smiled at that one."

Quite how a television series goes from the actorly preening of Richard E. Grant one week to the death of Veronica Guerin, the Irish invest-

gative journalist, the next, defeats me. But *The Works* (BBC2) managed it — and to quite an unexpected end for those of us on this side of the Irish Sea.

For while David Kerr's film contained little in the way of new facts (and certainly not enough to satisfy a journalist of Guerin's reputation), he quickly moved the focus away from who murdered her to the equally disturbing question of who allowed her to be murdered. Taking his lead from Guerin's brother, whose letter to *The Irish Times* first prompted this line of inquiry, Kerr gently considered the initially unthinkable — that it was partially her own fault — and the scarcely more palatable alternative — that her newspaper, *The Sunday Independent*, had not done enough to protect an inexperienced and possibly naive journalist from her own crusading passions. All round a very sobering half-hour.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (25938)

7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (Ceslex) (30071)

9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Ceslex) (30073)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (1174342)

9.45 KILROY Topical discussion series chaired by Robert Kilroy Silk (8705716)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (3) (35238)

11.00 NEWS (Ceslex) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (259622)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer magazine (4117648)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE Chat show hosted by Carol Smillie (3) (3554700)

12.00 NEWS (Ceslex) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (485029)

12.05pm ALIAS SMITH AND JONES Heyes and Curry are out for revenge when they are chased (4) (2590714)

12.35 THE WEATHER SHOW The team provide the weather forecast in aid of Children in Need (5181782)

1.00 NEWS (Ceslex) and weather (13359)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (1411936)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceslex) (24020358)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF With The Times columnist Alan Coren and Sandra Toksvig (3) (2591)

2.30 FETTER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK (4) (328)

3.00 INCOGNITO (4) (328)

3.30 THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD (577733) 3.55 Dr. M. Williams (3457829) 4.10 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (5517008) 4.35 Grange Hill (1758803) 5.00 Newsworld (Ceslex) (310613) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceslex) (2252819)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (4) (70484)

6.00 NEWS (Ceslex) and weather (735)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (77)

7.00 CHILDREN IN NEED Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin present the annual fundraising extravaganza (Ceslex) (3) (3577)

7.30 REGIONAL NEWS (Ceslex) and weather (35238)

7.40 CHILDREN IN NEED Entertainment news and Mark Owen gives a special performance of his first solo single, *Child* (Ceslex) (278657)

9.00 NEWS (Ceslex) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (4342)

9.30 CHILDREN IN NEED The fundraising continues as Barry Manilow files in for a special appearance. Also comedy mayhem from the cast of *The Brits* Empire (Ceslex) (2710551)

11.35 REGIONAL NEWS (Ceslex) and weather (35238)

12.00 CHILDREN IN NEED Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin invite you to join their latest night entertainment as the fundraising continues. Featuring Darren Day and the cast of *Summer Holiday*, Charles Aznavour, the cast of the musical *Smile*, and the cast of *The Brits* Empire (Ceslex) (35965)

2.00am Weather (708414)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ codes. These allow you to programme your video recorder to record a programme at a particular time. To find out more about VideoPlus+, contact your local video rental shop or visit our website at www.video-plus.co.uk. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory published on Saturday.

SKY 1

7.00am Live Connection (330000) 7.30 Press Your Luck (330134) 7.40 Jeopardy! (330135) 8.00 The Price Is Right (330136) 8.10 Wheel of Fortune (330137) 8.20 The Price Is Right (330138) 8.30 Jeopardy! (330139) 8.40 Wheel of Fortune (330140) 8.50 The Price Is Right (330141) 9.00 Jeopardy! (330142) 9.10 Wheel of Fortune (330143) 9.20 The Price Is Right (330144) 9.30 Jeopardy! (330145) 9.40 Wheel of Fortune (330146) 9.50 The Price Is Right (330147) 10.00 Jeopardy! (330148) 10.10 Wheel of Fortune (330149) 10.20 The Price Is Right (330150) 10.30 Jeopardy! (330151) 10.40 Wheel of Fortune (330152) 10.50 The Price Is Right (330153) 11.00 Jeopardy! (330154) 11.10 Wheel of Fortune (330155) 11.20 The Price Is Right (330156) 11.30 Jeopardy! (330157) 11.40 Wheel of Fortune (330158) 11.50 The Price Is Right (330159) 12.00 Jeopardy! (330160) 12.10 Wheel of Fortune (330161) 12.20 The Price Is Right (330162) 12.30 Jeopardy! 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CRICKET 45

Why Simpson has little time for the English game

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1996

GOLF 48

Way struggling to keep a grip on European tour



Brussels a brake to in tourism

Juventus show Ferguson the way to go

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN winter's bite is harsh, and your team is beaten by a penalty, it takes a grand game to warm 53,520 chilled souls seated in a football stadium. But we shall remember November 20, a night on which Juventus, the champions of Europe, dominated Manchester United with controlled movement and technique for half the game, a half in which it was as clear as the luminous moon that English clubs still have an awful lot to learn.

Alex Ferguson, the most successful manager in the British game, owned up after the final whistle. "It was a disappointing night," the Manchester United manager said. "These are the nights of Europe you remember. It would be silly to think you

should dominate just because you are at home; the Juventus movement of the ball and their work ethic was fantastic."

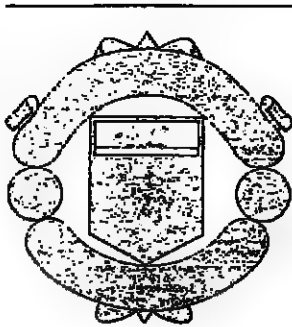
So, in its fashion, was the way the will of the crowd transmitted to young players such as Ryan Giggs and David Beckham on United's wings, so that, for the second half, chasing the game, Manchester could at least recapture pride in defeat.

Such a wonderful, spirited, obsessional pursuit, this football. Alas, in Portugal in the same European Champions' League competition on Wednesday, came reports of a distasteful, foul-ridden, drawn match between FC Porto and AC Milan, after which a brawl in the tunnel was ignited, allegedly, by a malicious butt from George Weah. The most lauded footballer in the world, a Liberian who could yet be destined to play for Arsenal,

apparently lost his head and butted Jorge Costa, the Porto captain, so viciously that the Portuguese player was taken to hospital with a suspected broken nose.

Thank goodness for the cold reality of northern England. There, the defeat, but not yet the end of United's quest for European success, had certain defining moments. One was in the fortieth minute, when Alan Boksic glided past David May. In full flight, he suddenly stopped and dragged back the ball, while May kept on running. It was reminiscent of Billy Wright and Ferenc Puskas, the lesson of another November, 43 years ago, when Geoffrey Green, in this newspaper, suggested that Wright was so deceived that he ran off like a fire engine towards the wrong fire.

What has changed is the athleticism, the speed and



GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	4	1	0	3	4	7	2
Rapido Vienna	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Manchester Utd	2	0	2	3	4	6	2
Rapido Vienna	1	0	2	3	4	6	2

stealth with which a man such as Boksic, whom Ferguson sought to buy for £6 million, guides the ball. Because Peter Schmeichel managed to block the angle, it came to nothing. But the winning moment had already happened.

Youth was at the heart of it, as Nicky Butt was drawn into an injudicious tackle on Alessandro del Piero. The penalty, though induced, was right, and Del Piero was unforgiving from the spot. However, youth is not the excuse. Del Piero, just 22, is barely two months older than Butt has served much of his last season, but he has developed fantastically well.

"He has lost a lot of surplus weight, he's looking really lean since going to Juventus.

Trafford afterwards, both managers had something to say about the influence of the French. "The best two French men this night played for Juventus," Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, observed. Ferguson could not disagree, could not this time defend Eric Cantona, whose nifty finishing mirrored the statistic that told us United had an inaccuracy count of missing the target in ten of 14 attempts.

Didier Deschamps dominated the centre of the field, Zinedine Zidane, balding though only 24, strode forward and dispensed pinpoint and imaginative passes. "I thought Zidane was fantastic," Ferguson said. "We looked at him four times at Bordeaux his last season, but he has developed fantastically well."

"He has lost a lot of surplus weight, he's looking really lean since going to Juventus.

At Bordeaux, we couldn't decide which was his best position; it says a lot for Lippi that he has become such an obvious talent in midfield now."

So, Ferguson was admitting that he had looked for another French talent, one who has taken the place of Cantona in his national side, for his own team. Twice beaten by Juventus, beaten for the signatures of both Boksic and Zidane, Ferguson is still looking for quality and still likely to recruit from abroad. On Wednesday night, the Italians — players and journalists — were refuelling the speculation that Fabrizio Ravanelli would join United.

Ravanelli, indeed, was among the United crowd. He stayed late and spoke to important figures at United. But Ferguson has said that he would not entice the player away from Middlesbrough.

managed by Bryan Robson, his former protégé.

Yet the game of procurement is destructive. Ajax, European Cup finalists for the past three seasons, are a shadow of their former selves after the asset-stripping consequences of the Bosman ruling. On Wednesday, Ajax lost at home to Auxerre despite having two-thirds of the possession and enough chances to have won comfortably.

But at least nothing happened there to sully the essence of football. In Portugal, it did. Milan were by far the more culpable in a game of 53 fouls, and José Carlos Esteves, the Porto team doctor, said he was an eye-witness, as was the referee, to "a deliberate headbutt by Weah. It was a savage attack, I have never seen anything like it, this is not sport." No sir, but Old Trafford was.

Sheasby steps in to entertain at Twickenham

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOR SOME, birthday presents come early. Chris Sheasby has been acting as the England rugby union squad's entertainment officer during their four days together this week but yesterday the replacement back-row forward came off the bench and will win his first cap, one week ahead of his thirtieth birthday, against Italy at Twickenham tomorrow.

Sheasby's belated chance arrived when Ben Clarke was finally forced to concede yesterday that a badly-bruised leg that has prevented him from training for the past week would not allow him to take his place in the back row. Tim Rodber will move from No 8 to take up the blind-side flanker role with which he is thoroughly familiar and Sheasby will take his place, joining forces with his scrum half from Wasps, Andy Gomarshall, and his club captain, Lawrence Dallaglio; Martin Corry, of Bristol, joins the replacements for the first time.



Sheasby: dynamic style

"No 8 is my preference. I like to control things and run the back-row moves," Sheasby, a part-time teacher at Pangbourne College, Berkshire, said. "It is perfect to be linking up with my club colleagues — I certainly won't feel lost."

The highlight of Sheasby's career to date was his part in the England team that won the Inaugural World Cup Sevens in 1993 but, to a degree,

that success has blighted his career. His elevation now completes a meteoric rise for a player frequently written off as a sevens exponent only.

That Sheasby grafted so successfully for Harlequins was ignored until last year when England A recognised his qualities; his move across London to Wasps last summer, though a surprise to many, has been thoroughly justified in that their style of play suits Sheasby's dynamic approach and carried him into the national squad ahead of last season's England A captain, Tony Dignose.

That Sheasby also moved because he felt his loyalty to Harlequins had been undervalued is a matter for him and the club where he spent ten years. Towards the end of that period he did not enjoy the best of relationships with Richard Best, director of rugby at the Stoop, who may be in hot water with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) for derogatory remarks made about union members and the present England management in the most recent edition of *Rugby News*.

Best, the England coach between 1992 and 1994, and the RFU parted company on the worst of terms but publication of critical remarks of his successor, Jack Rowell, on the eve of the first international of the season will win him few friends. "It is not my practice to comment on or criticise the work of other coaches," Rowell said. "I do not understand the



The England squad, which will include five newcomers against Italy tomorrow, trains in the lengthening shadows at Twickenham yesterday

motives of people who seek to disrupt the preparations of the national team."

Sheasby, 16 stone and 6ft 3in, will be the fifth newcomer in the XV tomorrow, but the quintet will be given little opportunity to find their feet by the captain, Phil de Glanville. "There is no honeymoon period on the pitch and they know that," de Glanville

said. "It will be a special moment for all of them but we need them contributing from the first minute."

The new captain has also warned against undue equanimity by England's supporters against a thoroughly experienced Italy side that encountered travel difficulties before arriving in London last night. A crowd of 50,000 is

expected, though tickets will be on sale tomorrow — a rare event in recent times — and de Glanville said: "Italy will be here to prove they should be part of the five nations' championship and I can see no reason why they should not be admitted."

Leading questions, page 46
Coded warning, page 46

McCoy hurries to his century of winners

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

TONY MCCOY rewrote racing's record books at Warwick yesterday when he completed the earliest century of winners achieved by a National Hunt jockey. The 22-year-old rider beat the previous record held by Peter Scudamore, who reached the 100 mark on December 20 in 1988 and 1989. "It's unbelievable, absolutely brilliant," McCoy said after being cheered into the winner's enclosure on Class Of Ninetytwo after the Shipston Handicap Chase. "Three years ago I could not even get 100 rides."

In his first season in England, McCoy rode 74 winners to be leading conditional jockey and last year his 175 victories made him champion jockey.

He rode his first winner this season on the opening day at Perth in June and required only 331 rides to complete his century. However, technically, his was not the fastest hundred. Scudamore achieved his centuries in a considerably shorter time as the jumps seasons then began in August, two months later than now.

Scudamore, who was at Warwick to see McCoy's feat, reflected: "It's a fantastic achievement whichever way



McCoy: record-breaker

you look at it, I have tremendous admiration for Tony."

If McCoy avoids injuries, he is likely to be champion jockey for the second successive year and could beat the overall record of 221 winners in a season, set by Scudamore in 1989.

McCoy has decided to appeal against his recent Newton Abbot whip ban. The hearing is expected to take place on Tuesday. The three-day suspension, if it is confirmed, will rule him out of the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury tomorrow week.

Racing, page 47

Houston delighted as Spencer goes west

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

JOHN SPENCER, the Chelsea striker, moved across west London to join Queens Park Rangers for £2.5 million yesterday. He is likely to make his debut against Reading at Elm Park tomorrow.

Spencer, 26, was Chelsea's leading scorer with 14 league and cup goals last season, but had become an increasingly peripheral figure at Stamford Bridge. He made only four substitute appearances in the FA Cup last season.

It is the first signing by Stewart Houston, the QPR manager, since he left Arsenal to take over at the Nationwide League first division club two months ago. "I'm delighted at being able to sign John," Houston said. "He's going to be a great asset. He has a good background and a lot of experience for someone of his age. I had to move quickly once I knew he was available."

Rangers are without Kevin Gallen, the England Under-21 forward, for the rest of the season after he damaged ankle ligaments. Spencer, who was a member of Scotland's Euro 96 squad, joined Chelsea from Rangers for £450,000 four years ago.

Alan Shearer's renowned powers of recuperation have ensured a swift return to Newcastle United's Premiership

title chase. Only a month after undergoing groin surgery, he will play against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tomorrow.

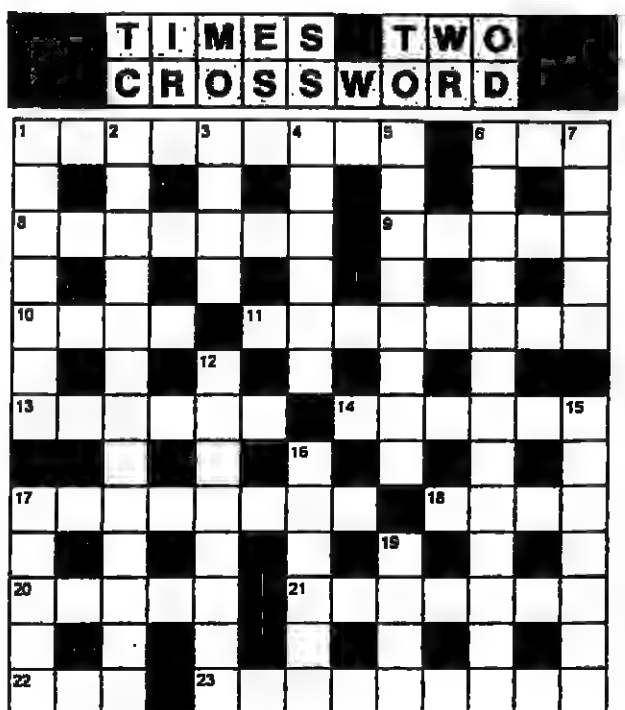
Shearer, scorer of eight goals in 13 matches this season, has missed six league and cup games. His recovery took on greater significance when Les Ferdinand, his strike partner, was ruled out for six weeks after fracturing a cheekbone on Saturday.

Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, also spent yesterday mulling over the future of Darren Huckerby, Coventry City have made an offer of £1 million for the striker, 20, who spent a week on trial at Highfield Road last month.

Coventry have announced losses of almost £8 million for the year ended last May, the result of spending £7.8 million on new players. The club's summer signings, Gary McAllister and the Belgium international, Reggie Genoux, are not included in the accounts.

Stan Lazaridis, the Australia winger, is to sign a three-year extension to his contract with West Ham United. Manchester City have failed in an attempt to lure Mark Schwarzer, the Australian goalkeeper, from Kaiserslautern, in Germany.

Plymouth in crisis, page 48
Gullit blues, page 50



No 946

- ACROSS
- 1 Strong liquor... (4,5)
 - 6 ... a dram of it (3)
 - 8 Adhere to (tease) (7)
 - 9 Warm and humid (5)
 - 10 Lie in furtive wait (4)
 - 11 Superficial, like beauty (4-4)
 - 12 Fireworks severe reprimand (6)
 - 14 Crab (6)
 - 17 Frozen sweet (3,5)
 - 18 Slender, unconvincing (ex-cuse) (4)
 - 20 Upright (5)
 - 21 Swimmer's air-tube (7)
 - 22 Child; another dram (3)
 - 23 One who comes next (9)
- DOWN
- 1 Unscrupulous operator (7)
 - 2 Resumption of friendly relations (1,3)
 - 3 Drive (animal) off (4)
 - 4 On which good learners are quick (6)
 - 5 Womanly (8)
 - 6 Of not much value, interest (2,5,6)
 - 7 Settle debt (3,2)
 - 12 Rubbish, waste (8)
 - 15 Dealer; animal trainer (7)
 - 16 Sweet white Gironde wine (6)
 - 17 Clumsy; out of place (5)
 - 19 Tadpole person (4)

The solution to 945 will be published Wednesday, November 27

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"thing of the past" that did not involve the Commission which took office last year under Jacques Santer.

The event has also provided an opportunity to discuss the more complex aspects of his life, such as his heroin addic-

San Juan, Puerto Rico: At least 19 people were killed and dozens injured when an explosion at a shoe store nearly destroyed a six-storey building. The cause was believed to be a gas leak. (AP)

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Fears over Ebola grow as two more South Africans fall ill

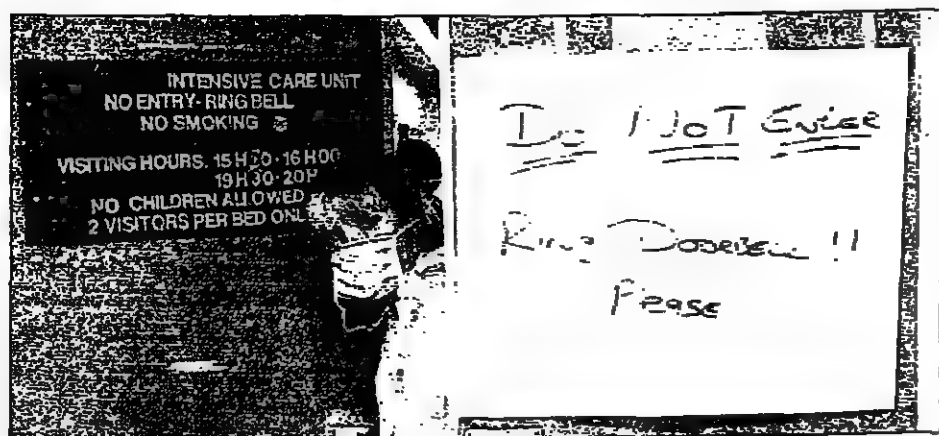
FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

FEARS of a spread of Ebola in South Africa grew yesterday as authorities announced that they were monitoring two more medical staff with symptoms of the deadly virus.

The two under observation are colleagues of Marilyn Lahana, 46, a nurse who was diagnosed with the virus last weekend. She is in critical condition at Johannesburg General Hospital. Medical authorities said that more than 200 people who had come into contact with Mrs Lahana, 46, were under surveillance.

The two who are regarded as especially at risk are believed to have been exposed to the virus during cleaning-up operations at the clinic where Mrs Lahana worked.

She apparently contracted the disease from a doctor who was visiting South Africa, and it marks the first time the virus has escaped from its usual rural milieu to a densely populated city. With doctors holding out little hope for her short-term recovery, public nervousness persists, despite reassurances from health authorities and President Man-



A stark warning on the door of the intensive care unit where Mrs Lahana is being treated

del. There is no known cure for the virus which is transmitted by body fluids.

An Ebola helpline has been deluged with calls from residents here as rumours about the disease spread. An American tourist received an e-mail message which claimed the South African Government was lying when it said the disease had been contained: the message also warned him not to go outdoors without wearing a mask and advised him to leave the country immediately.

As public fears grew, the child of an employee at the Morningside Clinic, where Mrs Lahana worked, was sent home from school for three weeks until the incubation period was over. "Some people are going bananas," Professor Bob Swanepoel, the doctor in charge of the case, said.

The authorities said a critical phase in the disease was being reached as those who came into contact with the virus cross the incubation threshold. They fear that new cases may arise.

Without early treatment Ebola, which killed 245 people in Zaire last year and 35 people in two outbreaks in Gabon this year, is fatal in 80 to 90 per cent of cases.

In the intensive care unit of the hospital where Mrs Lahana is connected to a dialysis machine and respirator, medical staff are employing rigorous nursing procedures: workers wear two pairs of gloves, waterproof aprons underneath the gowns and masks. All the hospital clothing is incinerated after use.

THE DISEASE

THE Ebola virus, named after the Ebola river in Zaire, has emerged periodically to create brief and frightening human epidemics (Nigel Hawkes writes). The assumption is that at other times it infects some animal — species unknown — which acts as a "reservoir". It attacks virtually every organ, liquefying tissue into a mush. Liver, kidneys and brain are all affected and in the disease's final stage victims may go into convulsions.

Experts are issuing a warning that the ease of global travel could lead to an outbreak of Ebola anywhere in the world. The doctor from whom Mrs Lahana is thought to have caught the disease, was flown here on a commercial airline by a company specialising in international medical transport. Concern is growing about the lack of regulations governing companies that transport the sick across the African continent and to Europe.



Marilyn Lahana, the nurse who is fighting for her life after contracting the virus

Gangland gun battles turn Soweto casualty ward into a war zone

R.W. Johnson reports from Johannesburg on the beleaguered hospital that is South Africa's first line of defence against the Ebola virus

THE outbreak of the incurable Ebola virus in Johannesburg has brought home sharply the way in which this most feared of diseases could escape from its present epicentre in equatorial Africa to the rest of the world.

The virus, brought in by a Gabonese doctor who had been treating an Ebola outbreak in Gabon, has infected Marilyn Lahana, a Johannesburg nurse, whose condition has become increasingly critical. 200 others are under close surveillance.

Johannesburg is now the world's frontline city for Ebola. It has such large and frequent international passenger flows that if the virus were to take root it would be impossible to stop it spreading to

the rest of the world. In turn, the front line for Johannesburg is Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, which serves three million people, because the poor Zairians who flood into Johannesburg as street traders and prostitutes are far more likely to end up in Baragwanath than in the private clinic where Mrs Lahana worked.

Baragwanath is an extraordinary institution. A huge complex built from Second World War military barracks, it has about 3,000

beds. The apartheid Government tried endlessly to focus healthcare on smaller, more manageable hospitals, but the black population continues to flock to Baragwanath.

The hospital has big problems. Listed by *The Guinness Book of Records* as the world's largest hospital, its standards of care and prevention have sagged badly since last year's violent cleaners' strike when the Communist-led union stopped nurses entering the hospital. Law and order in the hos-

pital has never fully recovered. The hospital is filthy, with feral cats roaming the corridors by night eating from the dustbins and plates of food left uncleared. Much of the hospital laundry is dirty and the adult wards are littered with paper, drink cans and bits of food. As you walk the corridors you see puddles on the floor and there is a pervasive stench of humanity.

Dr George Veleke, the hospital superintendent, agrees that the cleaners are a problem and that threats and intimidation on the premises are common. "People are scared to reprimand anybody in case their kids or family get beaten up," he said. "They simply tell you they will wait for you outside the hospital."

"We cannot fire anybody. If workers arrive drunk and we fire them, there will be a big strike. There is no authority. The hospital only takes action against serious cases such as murder or theft."

He cited the example of a nurse assaulted by a cleaner last year. "She withdrew the charges and left," he said. "The man is still working here. What do you do? He just waves his pistol at you."

Another problem is that many patients arrive at the hospital as a result of township gang wars, and their opponents come after them. "They just come in here with guns to finish the job," one senior nurse said. "Casualty ward is a war zone: we have had lots of shootouts in

there. But, of course, they come into the general ward too and try to shoot their enemies there. Sometimes they manage it."

Not surprisingly, morale is at rock bottom and it is amazing that care is as good as it is in Baragwanath, which the African National Congress wants to rename after Chris Hani, the murdered Communist leader.

What would happen if Ebola-infected patients arrived here, I asked? "Our infection-control unit would diagnose them successfully," a nurse said, "but the problem is care and prevention after that. To be frank, we would struggle to contain a major epidemic if it got started. But the people who might have Ebola come from Zaire and

the Ebola incubation period is up to three weeks."

What really stands between Baragwanath and an Ebola epidemic is poverty. Most patients are poor and the Zairians who arrive at the hospital would take more than three weeks to travel from Zaire to Johannesburg. "Mind you," the nurse added, "if such people were to scrape together the money to afford the air fare from Zaire, then we really would be in trouble."

At present, it seems likely that the Ebola outbreak will be contained, but given the continuing flow of Zairian job-seekers to Johannesburg, it seems that the world's front line against Ebola is decidedly vulnerable.

Fossil discovery in Ethiopia ages mankind half a million years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

A TEAM of American, Israeli and Ethiopian scientists yesterday claimed dramatic progress in charting the evolution of man with the discovery of what is described as the oldest fossil of human ancestors to have been found, together with stone tools and animal bones.

According to *The Jerusalem Post*, the fossil, along with chopping tools, stone flakes and mammal bone fragments, was found on the surface of a

remote hill in northern Ethiopia, an area that the three-nation team has been exploring since 1990.

The newly found human fossil consists of the upper jaw of an early *Homo*, the broad genus to which modern humans belong. It has caused a stir in scientific circles because previously discovered sites, all in Africa, in which hominid fossils have been found in layers that included stone tools, were estimated to be no older than 1.85 million years. The latest discovery is estimated, after extensive test-

ing, to be 2.3 million years old. The find linking the fossil to the stone implements was made near a dry stream bed in the Hadar Formation, a 20-year-old sequence of rocks and the home of the famous "Lucy" human ancestor found several years ago.

Experts said the volcanic rock fragments were analysed by the single-crystal-laser-fusion method of potassium-argon dating, which details precise ages for volcanic rocks and has revolutionised the dating of events in the history of evolution.

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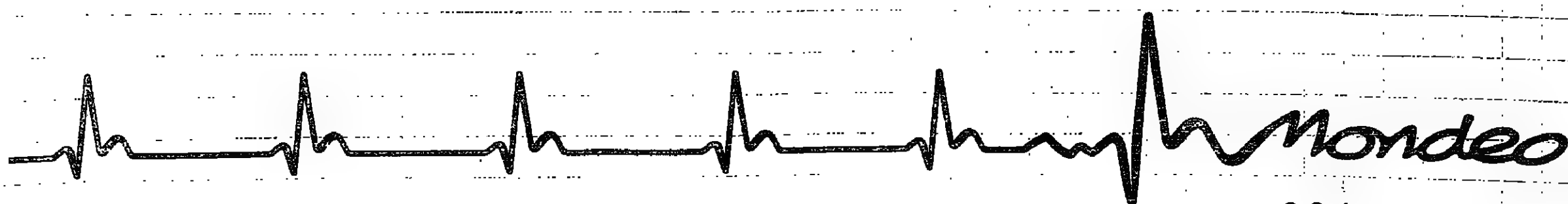
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Clinton tells Australians to treasure ethnic mix

By Roger Maynard in Sydney and Our Foreign Staff

AFTER a month of intense national debate over Australia's immigration and multicultural policies, President Clinton yesterday argued that a nation's ethnic diversity was its greatest source of strength and pride.

Congratulating the Australian people on uniting so many different nationalities, he said: "I cannot think of a better place in the entire world, a more shining example of how people can come together as one nation and one community than Sydney, Australia."

The greatest challenge facing the world in the next century was to find a way to let our children define themselves in terms of who they are, not who they are not, he added.

Mr Clinton's remarks follow a dispute over immigration sparked by Pauline Hanson, an independent MP, who claimed in parliament that Asian immigrants were "wrecking Australia".

Her comments caused up-roar at the time but have attracted widespread support from middle Australia. Hillary Clinton avoided racial issues when she addressed an audience of women at the Sydney Opera House. In a speech urging a balanced distribution of power in society, the First Lady said women's rights were human rights, pointing out that the strong

female vote in the American elections indicated it was vital that women's issues were addressed.

Democracies in every continent should understand that issues affecting women "are not soft or marginal but are central to the progress and prosperity of every nation", she said.

Mr Clinton will meet Jiang Zemin, the Chinese President, in Manila at the weekend. In China yesterday, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, praised China's progress on human rights. He also came very near to calling the new US-Chinese relationship a "partnership".

Mr Christopher made no mention of the two leading political prisoners, Wei Jingsheng, now serving 14 years after completing almost 15, and Wang Dan, beginning an 11-year sentence following one of almost four years.

In Manila, the Asian Pacific Rim economies yesterday unveiled an ambitious plan to free trade and investment in the world's most dynamic region.

The Manila Action Plan, which outlined the steps to be taken to remove impediments to economic growth, is to be presented for the official imprimatur of 18 world leaders who will hold their summit at Subic on Monday.

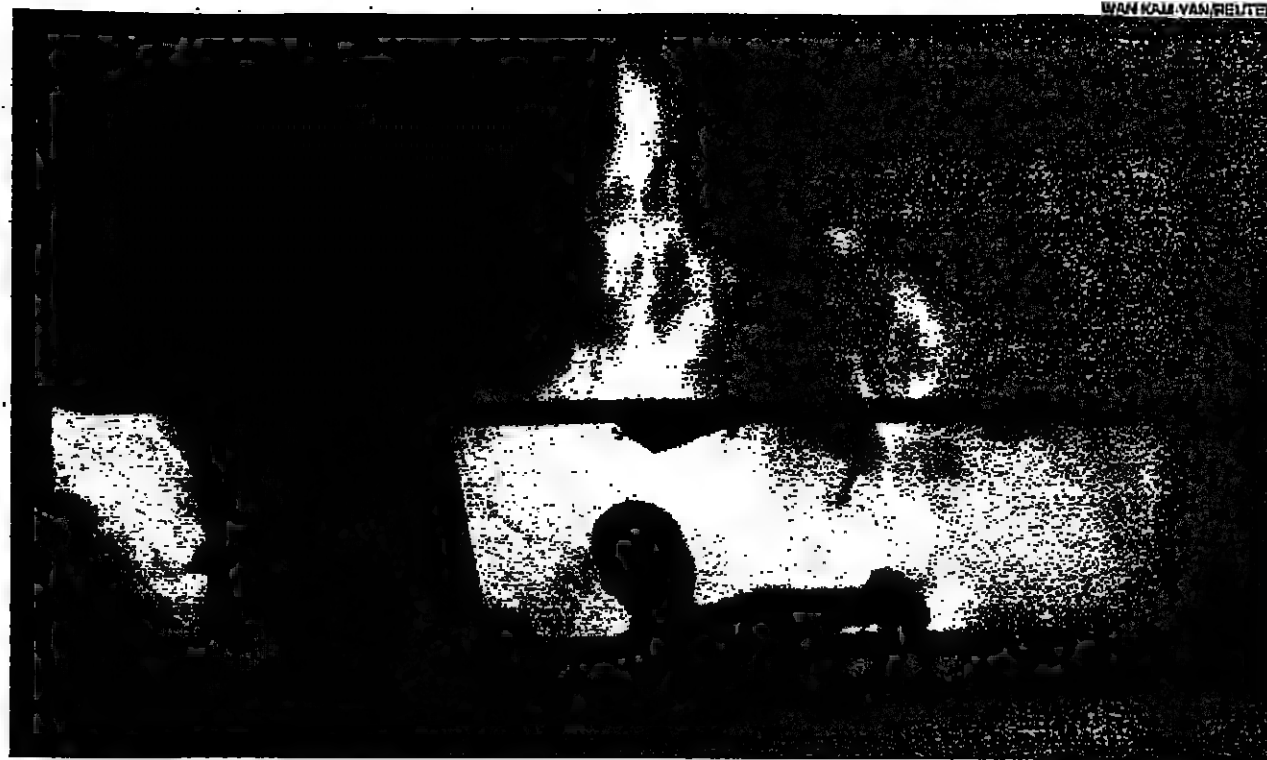
Last night Mr and Mrs Clinton flew into the Queensland resort of Port Douglas for a two-day holiday including a snorkelling trip to the Great Barrier Reef.

Under par: President Clinton took to the fairways yesterday with Greg Norman, the Australian golfing legend, and soon found himself getting a few lessons.

Teeing off at the New South Wales Golf Club, Mr Clinton was asked how he felt playing with the world's top player. "Terrified," he said with a smile. As the two progressed around the course, Norman could be seen passing on tips to the President. (Reuters)



Clinton: praise



A stranded office-worker slumps against a thirteenth-floor window as the Hong Kong fire takes hold

Patten weeps over 39 blaze deaths

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

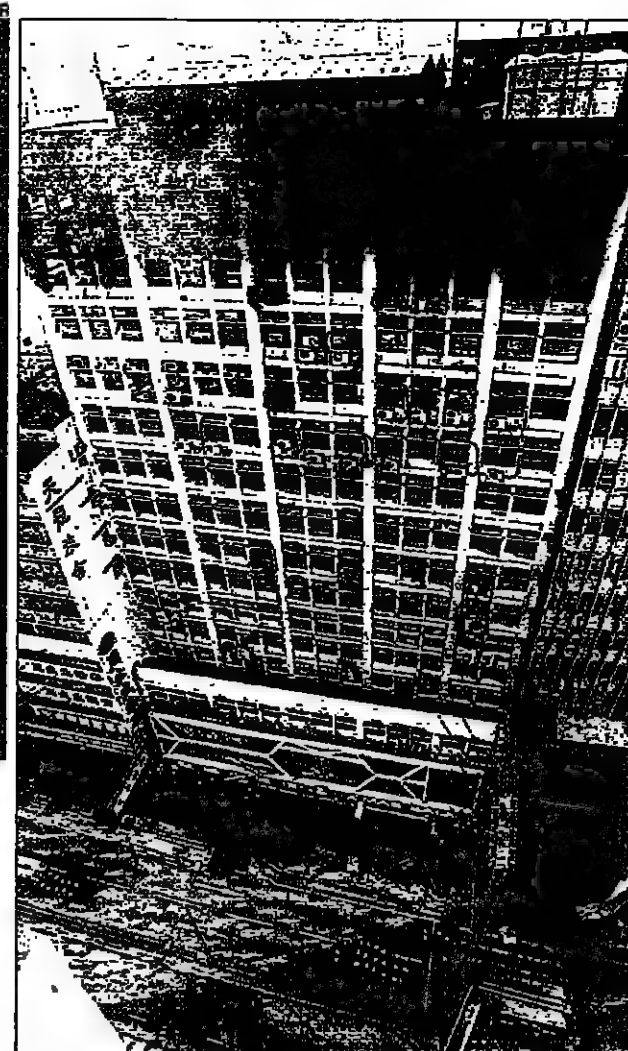
HONG KONG'S worst building fire in a century has killed 39 people.

Eighty people were injured and 39 were still missing last night after a blaze that took 300 firefighters 21 hours to extinguish. The fire began in a 16-floor

commercial building in Kowloon. Survivors were carried down ladders or jumped from windows. The building's metal frames and air conditioners melted in the heat.

Firefighters said that they had been delayed in entering the building by locked doors and because there were no fire exits. They said, too, that there was no

sprinkler system or adequate fire alarm. Chris Patten, the Governor, reported on the fire — "plainly a terrible tragedy" — to the Legislative Council, weeping as he mentioned "Senior Fireman Liu Chihung, who lost his life battling courageously to save the lives of others". The Queen and the Foreign Secretary sent messages of sympathy to the Governor.



The Kowloon office block where the huge blaze claimed 39 lives. Eighty people were injured

Magistrate killed in Taiwan mass shooting

FROM REUTERS IN TAIPEI

ASSASSINS burst into a county magistrate's home, tied up nine people and shot each in the head yesterday, killing the official and seven others.

The only survivor was in critical condition last night and was unlikely to live, officials said.

Liu Peng-yu, 54, Taoyuan county magistrate and a member of Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party, died in hospital seven hours after the shooting. Police said two gunmen raided Mr Liu's home, bound the hands of Mr Liu and eight others and shot each at close range. Five died instantly.

The assassination rekindled memories of the killing in February 1980 of the mother and daughters of a jailed Taiwan independence advocate in a politically charged case that remains unsolved. In August, the Taiwanese Justice Ministry launched a crack-

down on crime gangs that Liao Cheng-hao, the Justice Minister, said had infiltrated the country's business and political circles and even parliament, triggering fears of underworld reprisals.

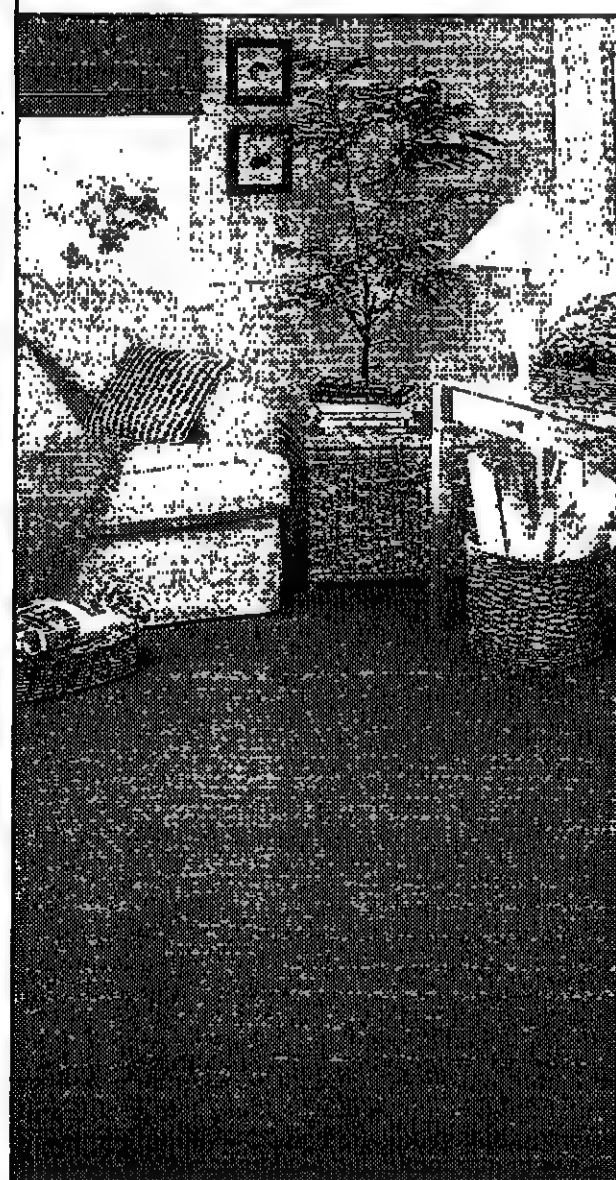
Police said that Mr Liu's killers had worked swiftly in what had all the signs of a premeditated assassination. "The method of the shooting shows that they wanted them to die at once. It took just ten minutes," a police spokesman said from Taoyuan, home of Taiwan's main airport south of Taipei.

Investigators found a stolen getaway car abandoned nearby as police mounted a search for the killers. Airports and seaports stepped up checks on departing passengers. The Interior Ministry offered a \$650,000 reward for information leading to the assassins' arrest.

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I've been in love, and I have had love affairs. But it's never quite worked out

Sue MacGregor on why she would be happy to play topless darts — and the moment Fergie almost broke down during her radio interview

I was just after an interview with Kelvin MacKenzie about topless darts that Gary Richards, the *Today* programme's sports reporter and fall guy, asked Sue MacGregor if she would take part in topless darts. "If it's on radio I'm quite happy," replied Sue amiably, unfazed as always.

The nation's two most famous redheads made a study in contrasts when Sue did the only radio interview with the Duchess of York — chronologically first of many such "exclusives".

Roger Mosey, the *Today* editor, will be on *Feedback* this morning to answer aggrieved listeners' (30 callers) who disapproved of a prime-time slot usually reserved for political leaders, being given to such a trivial subject as that woman. His defence is that it was a terrific interview. If it lacked the jokiness of the Ruby Wax treatment, it had an intimacy and directness and millions of us were riveted.

"Yes, I was that very vulnerable, very fragile, very naive person..." said Fergie. "Very foolish person, too," interrupted Sue, equably. "Being without your husband doesn't inevitably lead to unfaithfulness," Sue went on, "and you have admitted being unfaithful to Andrew." "I haven't admitted it," said Fergie obliquely. Were you unfaithful to him? "I don't think that's relevant..." It's certainly not mentioned in the book...

Yesterday morning Miss MacGregor was enjoying a day off; she had been planning a trip to Paris by Eurostar. Everything in her life, her sunny flat in West London, her well-coiffed, ever in control, incapable of embarrassing anyone, 35-year-old, on *Woman's Hour* and *Today*, she has been the consummate broadcaster, epitome of reassurance, the picture of composure.

Fergie interview was just... her assignment in a life of exacting routines: the 3.30am alarm, her 4.30 arrival

at Broadcasting House, her 9am sessions at the health club. She is a veteran of royal interviews: the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew... When she asked Prince Andrew about love, he replied that when the lightning bolt happened, he would know. As they left the studio, he confided that the lightning bolt had already happened, as he had already met Sarah Ferguson.

So ten years on, she found herself waiting for Fergie in a

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



bedroom in the Berkeley Hotel. "She arrived in a mac with her collar up, and no make-up. I thought she was in a rather crestfallen mood, quite close to tears some of the time."

"I felt quite apprehensive about doing this interview, because it's more in *The Psychiatrist's Chair* than *Today*. But I thought, if Diana had been asked about infidelity, one had to ask her (the duchess) that. I think her answer spoke for itself. Had I pushed her harder, I don't think she would have been able to continue without breaking down in tears."

One newspaper suggested that Sue wrote a "mollifying" letter to Fergie afterwards. Did she apologise for her questions? "Absolutely not," said Sue. "I just thanked her for appearing, and for answering the questions courageously. I often write, if it was an important interview and got a

lot of attention and was a difficult one for them to do."

"She is not someone with deep intellectual resources to fall back on; and that was part of her charm. What you see is what you get. She is an over-trusting person. And I think the references to 'my man', which some people find hard to take, indicate that she's still dotty about Andrew."

Sue MacGregor, doctor's daughter, grew up in South Africa, which is why she is so addicted to radio: there was no television at all. Within three months of arriving in London in 1967 she was producing *Radio Newsworld* for the World Service, and soon serving a solid apprenticeship on *The World at One* with William Hartcastle.

Her voice has no colonial trace (except when talking to Helen Stizman) but then she lived in Oxford until she was seven. She left school at 16 and for no proper reason skipped university, "a big regret", despite having shone academically.

Her younger sister, a teacher, has twin daughters now reading medicine, one at Oxford and one at Cambridge. "So I live vicariously through them, lapping up every detail about university life."

Was it a lack of education that made the two royal wives so incapable of coping? "That's an intellectually snobbish view," Sue said crisply. "Many people with several degrees can't cope with life. All Fergie did was spend, spend, spend. And as Ruby Wax pointed out — she is a great admirer of the Full Wax treatment — she'd given all that Counts money to good causes."

The only photograph on display in her flat is of Sue with Nelson Mandela in his jolly shirt at his home in Cape Town. There are no clues indicating a secret, rakish life, and it remains a mystery that Sue has remained unmarried all these years; at least three men have told me they were seriously in love with her. I named X and Y. ("Dear



Sue MacGregor, the consummate interviewer: "The duchess is not someone with deep intellectual resources to fall back on; and that was part of her charm"

X," she says. "Dear Y," "I used to ask myself that question a lot when I was in my thirties. I suppose I've hesitated to take that enormous step, which comes so naturally to most people. It never quite came naturally to me. I've been in love, and had love affairs, and I still have very close men friends. But it's never quite worked out."

If Sue MacGregor's good sense makes her the antithesis of Fergie, she is also just as much fun, and privately has none of the "nation's nanny" aura. She gives dinner parties and amuses audiences at public events with the putdowns

used by politicians, from Paddy Ashdown's "Good morning, Sue" (ie, a rebuke for her lack of greeting), to Norman Tebbit's "I'm surprised at you, Miss MacGregor. Had you read your *Times* you would know..." and so on.

The Brian Mayhinney outburst happened, she says, because he was in a radio car: in the studio, she would have raised an eyebrow and smiled as she asked the offending question.

Her own politics remain impenetrable. "I really am a floating voter who has voted

for all sides in my time — unlike my former colleague Peter Hobday, who says it is improper for a journalist to vote at all."

She is properly appalled at the prospect of *Today's* moving to the new TV Centre and losing its central London location at the hub of the universe, and also its closeness to Oxford Street. (I once saw her in John Lewis's buying curtains, minutes after *Today* ended.)

If there is a danger of the *Today* programme becoming too formulaic and self-satisfied, she says listeners are sharp with their rebukes. "Increasingly we presenters are

bombarded with e-mail, mostly attacking us for not being tough enough with politicians, not for being over-aggressive."

It is amazing that with her fine eyes, good cheekbones and ability to think on her feet, she was not snapped up by television. Desmond Wilcox did ask her to be on *Man Alive*: "He still can't understand why I turned it down." But as a TV star, she might have become subjected to the same unwelcome scrutiny as Anna Ford; her preference is for the intimate anonymity of radio. She hankers to do face-to-face TV interviews, as Jeremy Isaacs did. "But they

probably consider me too antediluvian."

She does no homework, only "keeping abreast" of events without seeing *News at Ten* or *Newsnight*. Her old friend Sir Robin Day is useful with his compendious political memory, and she has just acquired her first PC on which she can access the *Today* programme's plans for the next day. She can also access an Internet website called Live Cameras in Switzerland. Here she can see that Klostern, just across the mountain from where she skis with passionate abandon every year, already has plenty of snow.

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THE WATCHDOG POODLE

A single currency needs Parliament's singular scrutiny

Stealth has been the handmaiden of European integration, and democracy its brake. The difficulties encountered in getting the Maastricht treaty through the British Parliament and past the French and Danish peoples tempered the centralising ambitions of Europe's governing elites for a time, but did not reform them. The bruises only reinforced the need to shield the forward march of federalism from scrutiny. It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister should now be an accomplice in this process. By deciding to prevent the Commons properly debating plans for monetary union, John Major is treating the watchdog of Parliament as a poodle. In doing so he has offended not only constitutional principle but most of his own backbenchers. Even by the most cynical standards of the Whip's Office the Prime Minister is in the wrong.

The regulations that Mr Major considers adequately investigated after an agitated hour in committee are not minor legislative changes which should only detain the attention of the obsessive. They are provisions for the operation of a European single currency with potentially devastating effects on Britain's prosperity and independence. He has resisted calls to rule out British participation in a single currency because he wants to maximise Britain's influence over its evolution. That is, in itself, prudent diplomacy. But if Mr Major wishes to maximise effective scrutiny of the single currency, he should surely allow Parliament to debate its development fully.

Mr Major argued recently in *The Times* that a single currency created on the wrong terms could be a "disaster" for Britain, even if the British Government had not joined, because of the effects on our main trading partners. Vital British interests are at stake in the form that the single currency will take. This issue should not be smuggled past MPs. The single currency deserves singular scrutiny.

It is not just concern for the health of those

nations which do join a single currency, and their effect on Britain, which should concern Parliament. The regulations which Mr Major insists need no further scrutiny could, according to Martin Howe, QC, lead to a future British government, outside the single currency, being fined by the European Court for following an economic policy in the interests of its own citizens.

The draft regulation on surveillance of budgetary positions could require the British Government, even if outside a single currency, to provide details of its economic plans to show that progress is being made towards "convergence" with the euro. Britain would not be able to veto such a provision because the regulation has been framed under Article 103 of the Treaty of Rome, as amended by Maastricht, which allows content to be decided by qualified majority voting. If a future government then submitted budget plans which did not "converge" it could face a financial penalty.

Under Articles 169 and 170 of the treaty, the British government could be fined by the European Court of Justice for running an economy that was too competitive relative to the Continent. It is bad enough that Britain might be punished for protecting its citizens from a single currency. The attempt to deny Parliament the chance to scrutinise the possibility properly is insupportable. It is not good enough to say that Parliament will be able to decide on the merits of a single currency in future. There is every chance that these regulations could bind Britain even if it stands aloof. If the regulations are innocuous then the Government has nothing to fear. If they are as dangerous as Mr Howe fears then a debate is imperative, because the single currency opt-out, like the social chapter opt-out, will prove a paper shield. The Prime Minister should not only allow a debate, he should also speak in it, if he believes that the opt-out he fought so hard to secure is still a sure protection.

THE SPEAKER'S CORNER

In Clinton's new term Gingrich bids to be the come-back kid

With open reluctance in some quarters, Republicans in the House of Representatives have confirmed Newt Gingrich as their leader and Speaker in the Congress to come. The caution of his colleagues is understandable. Although a Republican House has re-elected for the first time since the Great Depression, many members suffered the fright of their political lives. Few could pretend that in most districts Mr Gingrich was anything other than a liability. Since the principled but ultimately unsuccessful struggle to force President Clinton into a balanced budget agreement 12 months ago, the Speaker has suffered continuous highly adverse public poll ratings.

Democrats and their supporters in the union movement exploited that negative standing effectively this year. Virtually all House Republicans were labelled as "Gingrich extremists". And, although more than 70 charges against him have already been dismissed, a special counsel is still investigating various allegations of ethical impropriety. Little wonder that a rather subdued Mr Gingrich has pledged a lower profile and less combative style over the next two years. It all seems a long way from the *Contract with America*, and its barnstorming first hundred days.

Mr Gingrich is not finished yet. His party has backed him despite all these difficulties because of his enduring assets. He remains an inspiring visionary, a supreme political strategist, and the man most capable of bargaining between the various interests and egos among Republicans on Capitol Hill. There is no obvious alternative of similar quality. Unless there is real substance in the remaining ethical questions against him, he will remain at the helm. Nor does he need to be that defensive. While Mr

Gingrich certainly overreached in both the scale of his programme and style of his pronouncements, Mr Clinton's second term gives him the opportunity to advance his agenda and remake his image.

Conservatism remains the dominant force within the American electorate. If Mr Clinton had not recognised that and swiftly adapted to it he would have lost office. The areas that Mr Gingrich will promote in the next Congress — eliminating the budget deficit, tax cuts, deregulation, smaller government, further welfare reform — are widely supported, even if he personally is not. Republicans are remarkably united, committed, and disciplined both in philosophical terms and in their votes on the House floor. This coherence will make the management of business somewhat easier for the Speaker than his slim 20-seat majority might suggest.

Mr Gingrich should also enjoy a better relationship with his colleagues in the Senate. Senate majority leader Trent Lott is now at least the equal of the Speaker; but that is no disaster. Mr Lott is much closer to Mr Gingrich in ideology than Senator Bob Dole ever was. The Senate over which Mr Lott presides has just witnessed both an increased Republican membership and a significant shift to the right within party ranks.

Mr Gingrich remains the enigma of American politics, alternating between the brilliant and the bizarre at breathtaking speed. If he disappeared from public life tomorrow he would still rank among the three most important Speakers of the century. If he proves capable of learning from his mistakes, then he can push forward a set of popular initiatives next year and dare the President to veto them. It would be dangerous folly for Democrats to underestimate him.

MISS WORLDLY

Who is to define obscenity in the land of the Kamasutra?

Not since the Trojan War has a beauty contest threatened such dire consequences. Sniffer dogs are patrolling the giant stadium, two all-women platoons of paramilitary police are on standby for snatch arrests, bomb squads are in place and police will form a ring of steel around the arena in Bangalore where Miss World will be crowned tomorrow. In recent years the contest has provoked catcalls, demonstrations and shrill denunciations by feminists protesting at this festival of the female form. But rarely has it threatened a general strike or the self-immolation by fire of activists.

The bemused organisers can be forgiven for wondering how the popular show, likely to attract an audience of two billion people, can have provoked such a furor. India is a country where entertainment is big business: its cinema industry is one of the largest in the world, its festivals, pageants and wedding extravaganzas are occasions for public display, exhibition and exuberance. India is anxious to become part of the international television world, showcase its diversity and demonstrate that it is a thoroughly modern society. Indeed, Indian women have on several occasions been winners of previous competitions, profitably capitalising on their success.

The Miss World contest has also made

contestants have to demonstrate charm, intelligence, ambition and grace as well as an alluring figure. The most controversial section, the swimsuit parade, has already been held in the Seychelles, a setting where such kit is more suited to the landscape. As *The Times of India* noted yesterday, this is not a celebration of nudity or obscenity. And who is to define obscenity in the land of the *Kamasutra*? Surely Indians are not so faint-hearted as to faint at the sight of a row of beauties parading in colourful, if somewhat abbreviated, costumes?

But matters are not so simple. There is a distinct disenchantment in non-Western countries at being offered hand-me-down entertainment that has gone out of fashion in London, Paris, New York and Los Angeles. Some Indians have become resentful of the dominance of Western entertainment on their airwaves and screens. Hindu activists have denounced what they see as an insidious attempt by the West to undermine traditional values and subvert Indian morals. Many in the West would have some sympathy with this cultural assertiveness. And yet the first Indian kiss on celluloid dates back to the 1930s. India is a sufficiently diverse society to withstand a temporary influx of preening pulchritude. Miss World will be crowned tomorrow. But no one is obliged to worship at her court.

Some perspective on the tunnel fire

From Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Twickel (9th/12th Lancers, ret'd)

Sir, With the benefit of hindsight we are now being treated by many journalists to their superior concept of design, construction and operation of the Channel Tunnel, November 19, 20, 21. If they had had their way we would still be squabbling over where to start digging.

The fact remains that the evacuation of the passengers from the tunnel was conducted with no loss of life and with best speed in a most successful operation. Of course lessons will be learnt and no doubt there will eventually be some modifications to equipment and procedures. Let us however not be drawn into unnecessary "knee-jerk" reactions.

Before the first bridge over the Severn Estuary was built British Railways operated a service for cars through the Severn Tunnel. Because passengers were separated from their cars and because of the bureaucratic and inflexible modus operandi of this now happily defunct body a journey which should have lasted 30 to 45 minutes took many hours with the result that hardly anyone used it and the operation lost money.

In Switzerland (a nation not exactly renowned for laid-back railway staff) cars are loaded onto railway flats, passengers stay in their cars and indeed could in theory stand on the flats outside their vehicles. For instance the Lötschberg tunnel has two railway tracks running in the same bore and there is no additional service tunnel. Yet the safety record there is excellent.

I have taken my car both through the Channel Tunnel and through Alpine tunnels. I am very happy with the present arrangements. I do not wish to travel in a different railway wagon from my car as this will add time and further inconvenience to my journey. I for one would rather put my trust into the team of engineers and businessmen who made this most remarkable engineering achievement possible than those who only think they know better.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER TWICKEL,
Tidmington Corner,
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.
November 21.

From Mr E. H. R. Fane

Sir, A ferry capsizes. Safety systems fail. Many people die. Ro-ro designs are questioned. An inquiry is initiated — but ro-ferry continues to operate.

A Channel Tunnel freight train catches fire. Main safety systems appear to operate. All people survive. Design is questioned. An inquiry will no doubt be initiated — but passenger services are suspended indefinitely until, according to the spokesman for Eurotunnel whom you quote today, "the safety authority has ensured that the safety of people is assured".

Is this fair?
Yours faithfully,
EDWARD FANE,
15 Kyrle Road, SW11.
November 21.

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, In today's leader, "Nightmare scenario", you refer to Parliament being "told that tunnel services cannot be resumed until absolute safety can be guaranteed". But "absolute safety" does not exist in any form of transport. Ships sink, ferries overturn, trains, planes, cars, lorries and coaches crash. The history of transport is generally a record of increasing but never absolute safety.

As a former pilot, and as one who frequently uses both the tunnel and the ferries, this week's accident, which was without loss of life or serious injury, seems to me to prove that the tunnel services provide a safe mode of transport compared to most, and one which will become safer still as procedures rather than hardware are improved.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
(Conservative MEP,
Kent East, 1979-94),
5 Wellmead Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent.
November 20.

Lottery watchdog

From the Director General of the National Lottery

Sir, I am writing to comment on Valerie Elliott's report, "Lottery watchdog rebuked by MPs for not checking Camelot" (November 14), and your leading article the following day, "His number is up".

As a public official I expect my actions to be scrutinised, reported in a reasonably balanced way, and criticised where justified on the basis of the facts. Your paper's reporting and comment is unbalanced and inaccurate, and (to quote your leading article) any "bad publicity that [my] continuance in office has engendered" has mainly been generated by successive instalments of *The Times*'s long-running criticism of me.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is fully considering the National Audit Office (NAO) report *Payments to the National Lottery Distribution Fund* and the evidence that I gave to the PAC on November 13. Your comments, meanwhile, are based on an inaccurate statement about what the NAO found; on selective quotation from the comments made by some members of the PAC at

Financial problems of Bar trainees

From Mr Michael Paget

Sir, With respect, Judge McCarthy (letter, November 15), when explaining the historical development of the relationship between a pupil and his or her self-employed pupilmaster, fails to place it in a modern context.

It is, of course, accepted that pupils acquire invaluable insight through this unique training, but the Bar as a whole must concern itself with the financial burdens on present-day pupils. Without reasonable awards high calibre but impecunious candidates will turn elsewhere. Surely for the Bar to have a flourishing future it must endeavour to recruit people who accurately reflect society, in all its diversity?

Yours,
MICHAEL PAGET
(Pupil barrister),
1 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

From Mr Matthew J. P. Roberts

Sir, As a second-six-months pupil I find Judge McCarthy's observations on pupillage ill-informed. The majority of people who undertake the Bar vocational course have done so in substantial debt from the high level of fees for Bar school (£5,500) and the cost of living in London. Most of those fortunate enough to obtain pupillage have an overdraft at the outset.

Judge McCarthy's suggestion that a trainee solicitor undertakes work of merit which deserves payment whilst those training at the Bar do not is untenable. Pupils are required to undertake many tasks ranging from research and doing large amounts of paperwork to becoming accustomed to court appearances. Whilst those training as solicitors have both a guaranteed salary and to some extent regularised hours, those in pupillage are required to work whatever hours are demanded of them, quite often for no reward.

The judge's suggestion that a pupil should remunerate his pupilmaster betrays a lack of understanding of the modern Bar. I am astounded that anyone could possibly believe that the Bar is so different from any other profession that it can justify denying a basic level of subsistence during the professional training stages. This is a problem that is acknowledged by both the Bar Council and the Inns of Court, who are striving to ameliorate such hardship.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. P. ROBERTS,
Verulam Chambers,
Verulam Street, WC1.
November 19.

Parlez-vous French?

From Mr Eric Dehn

Sir, I cannot agree with Susan Elkin ("Parlez-vous Français?", Education, November 15) when she claims that standards reached in foreign language exams were higher in the good old days.

We learnt a language in the past, in my case some fifty years ago, in order to deceive an examiner rather than to communicate, and emerged from school qualified but totally tongue-tied.

Grammar, of course, should not be ignored so long as it is linked to usage but there was an over-emphasis on the mastery of rules and a neglect of conversational fluency. Even as recently as the 1980s I taught a student who never made a mistake in writing: I felt frustrated with my red-ink pen permanently suspended, but he never said anything. I sent him to a family in France and the father wrote to me saying: "Never again send me a boy who keeps telling me I ought to have used the subjunctive."

Dictation, containing grammatical traps to catch the unwary, rarely used material that was relevant (why must that word always have a derogatory implication?). In my own distant schooldays I remember being subjected to a dictation telling me that a harassed beggar met an embarrassed pedlar gauging the symmetry of a lady's ankle in the cemetery.

A compromise between ancient and

modern methods of teaching will not lead to a lowering of standards.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC DEHN,
5 Trelawney Road, Bristol.

From Mrs Chris Grovenor

Sir, I entirely agree with Susan Elkin about the contrast between the rigour of the O-level French course and the current GCSE version. Even more demanding were the language papers of the School Certificate examination which I took in 1943, with one exception: the oral examination was a joke.

I went on to take French in the Higher School Certificate and the S-level papers. I thoroughly enjoyed the extensive study of Molière and the classical tragedies, could read French with the same facility as English and translate passages of considerable grammatical complexity into French. However, I found that after the war when travel again became possible I could not, without much hesitation, ask for directions or order a meal, let alone hold a conversation.

Can we not devise language courses which combine intellectual discipline with conversational facility? One only has to hear Dutch or Scandinavian 15 to 16-year-olds speaking English to know that it is possible.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS GROVENOR,
11 The Quadrangle,
Kings End, Bicester, Oxfordshire.
November 16.

Island files

From Dr G. A. Howlett

Sir, Some 15 years ago the late Professor Richard Cobb gave a brilliant series of lectures on everyday life in occupied France. Being a humane and civilised man he would warn his listeners not to judge too harshly, from the privileged position of these uninvaded islands, the sad and shabby compromises with which many Frenchmen and Frenchwomen had adapted themselves to the new reality.

His words came back to me with a special poignancy when I read your report (November 20) on the release of previously secret files on the Channel Islands during the last war. While as a historian I applaud the availability of new evidence, I cannot help feeling that you were wrong to give prominence to the names of several alleged practitioners of *la collaboration horizontale* and other misdeeds. Many of the people involved are no doubt still alive, and apart from a taste for vicarious revenge and ritual humiliation I can see no reason to name them to a wide audience.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH HOWLETT,
16 Inverleith Row, Edinburgh.

TV guidance

From Mr Paul Berry

Sir, As a parent, I have often wondered why the TV channels have not taken up the certification method used for films and videos, so it was interesting to see your report (World Summary, November 19) that French TV stations are now taking this route.

Our 9 o'clock watershed is a useless anachronism. Can the children watch the film we recorded last Christmas — what time was it on? And was it cleaned-up for early evening viewing? Is a documentary shown after 9pm because it is unsuitable for children, or because it has minority interest?

Everyone is familiar with the film certification system, and the criteria are quite clear. How much better if TV channels voluntarily applied a simple certificate to each programme. Programme-makers would make an explicit statement of their intended audience; for example, would the makers of *Casualty* expect their programme to be viewed by a child under 12? Every episode?

Yours faithfully,
P. A. BERRY,
12 Silverdale Road,
Bushey, Hertfordshire.

Island files

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Sir, Some 15 years ago the late Professor Richard Cobb gave a brilliant series of lectures on everyday life in occupied France. Being a humane and civilised man he would warn his listeners not to judge too harshly, from the privileged position of these uninvaded islands, the sad and shabby compromises with which many Frenchmen and Frenchwomen had adapted themselves to the new reality.

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Yours faithfully,
GARETH HOWLETT,
16 Inverleith Row, Edinburgh.

Budget appeal in aid of the family

From the Executive Director of CARE and others

Sir, If taxes are to be reduced in next week's Budget, should not the Chancellor's priority be to give help to those taxpayers who need it most?

In recent years the tax burden has swung markedly from single people without children onto married couples, particularly those where one partner stays at home to look after the children or elderly or dependent relatives. If income tax rates are cut again while tax allowances are increased (if at all) only in line with inflation, the main benefit will not be felt by families, many of whom are among the least well off.

The fragmentation of society, leading to poorer education and health standards and increased crime rates, has many causes; but the increasing disregard for marriage is certainly one of them. We believe that the most immediate and direct way of helping families by tax changes would be to increase the married couples allowance.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLIE COLCHESTER,
Executive Director, CARE.
†MICHAEL BOWEN,
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark.
†JAMES HULLEN,
Bishop of Hull.
DAVID COFFEY,
General Secretary, Baptist Union.
CLIVE CALVER,
General Director, Evangelical Alliance.
PAUL JINADU,
General Secretary,
Afro-Caribbean Evangelical Alliance.
c/o CARE (Christian Action Research and Education),
53 Romney Street, SW1.
November 20.

Going to St Ives

From Mr Michael Knight

Sir, Anyone going to Cornwall with the seven wives in mind (leading article, November 18) may end up at the wrong place. St Ives, Cambridgeshire (near Huntingdon) has some claim to be the town mentioned in the rhyme.

The tenuous evidence for this is that St Ives, Cornwall, was spelt St Iles (no "v") until the 16th century and did not rhyme with "wives". The origin of the verse may predate the inclusion of a "v" in the Cornish name.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL KNIGHT,
Quay Court, Bull Lane,
St Ives, Cambridgeshire.
November 14.

Oxbridge blues

From Mr Tim Houghton and others

Sir, The annual graduate recruitment battle is upon us. As in every year since Henry II kindly set in motion the murder of Thomas à Becket — thus providing the impetus for the inception of those noble universities, Oxford and Cambridge — many of those tired and battered soldier scholars, retiring from the field without a job, are crying "Oxbridge bias".

Oxford and its bastard child Cambridge (only kidding) are portrayed *ad nauseam* as bastions of privilege. In many ways this is quite the case. They provide a frighteningly effective education. The experience of alone defending an ill-conceived and fundamentally flawed essay against a tutor who is the intellectual equivalent of *HMS Dreadnought* is intensely valuable. It prepares one for almost anything.

However, the Oxbridge graduate earned this undeniably superb education. He or she was probably required to have attained distinction at A level. The Oxbridge interview can be harrowing; he or she will then have been made to work ferociously hard.

Our friends who were at other excellent universities are not made to feel guilty about their success. Why should Oxbridge graduates — who have, on average, extremely good academic credentials — be made to feel that they owe theirs to a sinister "Oxbridge bias"?

Yours faithfully,
TIM HOUGHTON
(Exeter College, Oxon, 1992-95),
BEN PILLING
(Lincoln College, Oxon, 1991-94),
JON HOUGH
(St Hugh's College, Oxon, 1991-95),
c/o 5b Natal Road,
Streatham Common, SW16.
November 19.

A Cambridge summer

From Dr M. J. Michinson

Sir, I think the champions of a longer summer term at Cambridge (report, November 15) must have been my younger colleagues.

In my undergraduate days, when priorities were different, it was common knowledge that the date of the end of the summer term was decided by the Jockey Club. They decided the date for Goodwood years ahead. Henley, in turn, had to be placed before Goodwood; clearly, term must end before Henley.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. MITCHINSON,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Pathology,
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
November 15.

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Sport letters, page 48

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

BLUNT CASE 'KNOWN AT NO 10 SINCE 1967'

ON THIS DAY
November 22, 1979

Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Merlyn Rees, the former Home Secretary, who opened for the Opposition, spoke of their disgust at what had taken place and of their belief that there could be no excuse of conscience for treachery.

Earlier Mrs Thatcher told MPs that all Prime Ministers and Home Secretaries since 1945 had been told about Professor Blunt; that would include Sir Harold Wilson, Mr Heath and Mr Callaghan.

Few of those listening to Mrs Thatcher could have avoided the conclusion that her clear but dramatic account of the events leading to the revelations of the past few weeks had been a masterpiece of political directives to the security services, the law officers and other ministers have been thoroughly reviewed so that future prime ministers are unlikely to be bypassed as was Lord Home in 1964. Even the most suspicious of MPs must have been satisfied that there was no attempt to provide any sort of Establish-

BOX 485, FREEPOST
 TRAVEL AGENT.